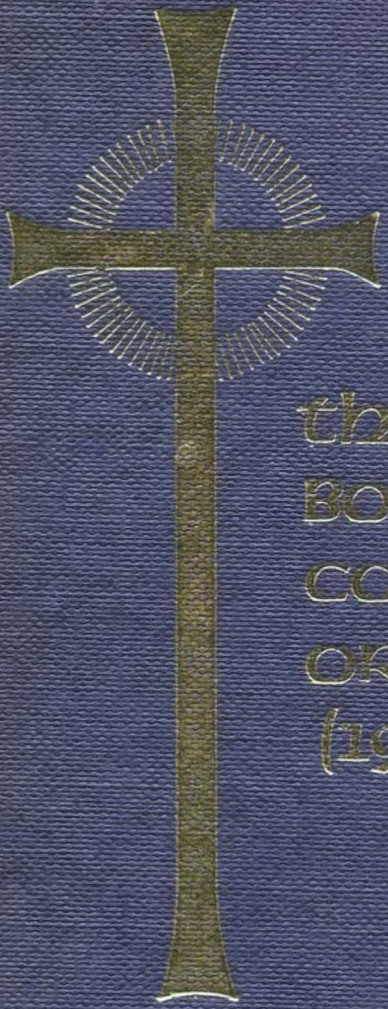

the Book of common order (1979)

THE BOOK OF COMMON ORDER
(1979)

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COMMON ORDER

(1979)

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INTRODUCTION

The present volume represents revision of the Book of Common Order 1940 carried out by the Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion over several years, as reported to successive General Assemblies and noted by them. Some of the texts have already been in print: final revision has therefore been done in the light of experience and in terms of comments and criticisms made by those who have used the services.

The Divine Service

From an early stage in its work of revision the Committee envisaged a Book of Common Order in which orders for the celebration of Holy Communion would stand first and provision for Morning Service when Holy Communion is not celebrated would follow. This has been done. By this arrangement the Committee gives clear expression again to the normative character of the service of word and sacrament which character was undoubtedly recognised by the Reformers as it has been down the centuries by the universal Church.

The provision for Morning Service where Holy Communion is not celebrated is confined in this volume to the Order printed on p. 42: it has to be understood however that full provision is made in the companion volume which contains sixteen sets of prayers for morning worship together with other liturgical material relating to the Christian Year. It is anticipated that the companion volume will be of a

less permanent nature and may be superseded much more quickly than this present Book of Common Order. If that happens it will make explicit what is always implicit in the publication of any liturgical material in the Church of Scotland viz. that we eschew in the main definitive forms and provide only models, recognising as now the world Church recognises that the search for language and for forms that are appropriate at once to worshippers and to Christ, the Lord of the Church in the worshippers' midst, must go on tirelessly and without intermission. To describe the Sunday morning worship of most churches in Scotland negatively as "Morning Service where Holy Communion is not celebrated" is perhaps unfortunate. The positive thing that has to be said is that Church of Scotland worship as it has developed since the Reformation has evinced a profound appreciation of the word of God, and in the reading and preaching and hearing of that word Scotland has had rich experience of the Holy Spirit. The Committee believes that that experience is richest where worship is ordered according to the eucharistic pattern, that is to say where the reading and preaching of the word lead to prayers of thanksgiving and intercession and all the fullness of eucharistic devotion save the partaking of bread and wine. This was the earlier tradition of the Reformed Church in Scotland and it is the order which the Committee believes best reflects the logic of the gospel.

Language

The challenge of language has thrust itself upon the Church increasingly in the last decade. The Committee

makes a bipartisan response to the challenge. It is clear that the language of today must be pressed into the service of the Church not just because it is modern but because it has a contribution to make to the worship and mission of the Church. It is equally clear, however, that traditional prayer language must be used and developed in the service of the Church, not just because it is traditional, hallowed by usage centuries-long, but because it has a contribution to make to the worship and mission of our Church, because it is an art-form of rare quality and part of our culture. Provision is therefore made in both forms in all but one of the acts of worship contained herein.

This book represents long years of theological and liturgical labour. They have been satisfying years, years of rethinking and reformation, years of new christological clarity and ecumenical awareness. The Committee offers the volume to the Church with the prayer that it may be serviceable to Christ the Lord of the Church and to his people and may promote the glory of God.

A. STEWART TODD
Convener

Easter 1978

NOTES ON THE SERVICES

Psalms and Hymns

The rubrics refer to psalms and hymns at positions where the congregational singing in the services would be appropriate. It is not anticipated that there would be as many singings as there are references.

Anthems

The placing of the anthem in the early part of the service, or in association with the reading of scripture or as part of the response to the word of God should depend upon the content of the words and the scale of the music.

Intimations

The satisfactory placing of intimations in the service is difficult. The happiest solution is to have them in typescript in the pews: where this is not possible it probably makes sense to have them in close proximity to intercessions.

Offerings

The placing of offerings in the service will be dictated by different theological and liturgical viewpoints and alternative positions are therefore offered. Some will relate the action to the eucharistic celebration, some to intercession and some to self-dedication. All of these are possible through not wholly satisfactory ways of interpreting the action. The one thing that is clear

is that making an offering is an important part of the people's whole response.

Children at Worship

The absence of any reference to children in these orders and in the outline is not to be interpreted as a lack of awareness of their presence at worship: it rather reflects the impossibility of a neat liturgical interpretation of the different views held on this subject. There are those who believe that where children attend worship in large numbers a missionary opportunity is offered which ought not to be lost and words ought to be addressed to them. Others believe this is spiritually a diversion and educationally a nonsense and put the emphasis on the experience of the whole worship-event and on the especial value of this when it is within the context of the family. The different provisions made will be determined not only by the different missionary and pastoral concerns but also by such factors as geography of the building, hours of meeting of Sunday School and Bible Class etc.

Prayers of Intercession

In the Order of Service for Public Worship the outline shows alternative positions for intercession: there is no one liturgically right place to have them. Where the Lord's Supper is being celebrated historical and pastoral arguments can be adduced to justify broad intercessions outwith the eucharistic prayer and brief and perhaps more intimate intercessions within it. Here in the outline the argument in favour of that first arrangement is simply that it permits more

spacious intercessions such as might overshadow the characteristic motif of eucharist, which is adoration, thanksgiving and richly confessional remembrance of God's mighty acts.

Order for the Administration of Holy Baptism

An order for baptism, which took account of the massive scholarship of the *Report of the Special Commission on Baptism*, has been in use for ten years now. The present order follows that order fairly closely, the main changes occurring in the preamble. It seemed to the Committee, in the light of experience, that the Church was perhaps unable to hear the word of God for the din of theological words.

Marriage Services

The Services

The contours of the first service will be seen to correspond almost exactly to those of the Marriage Service in the Book of Common Order (1940). Those of the second service differ in disposing of the legal requirements at the outset and following them with a brief invocation and petition before proceeding to the preamble. In whatever sequence they come the elements of the marriage service are clearly identifiable. A marriage service is an event in the life of the Church. At that service the Church does three things. She resumes her worship at the high point reached on the Lord's Day, the point of thanksgiving, and now relates the thanksgiving to the special happiness of the marriage day: she turns again gratefully to the

word, i.e. scripture, read and sometimes briefly preached: in the buoyancy of faith she prays and blesses the couple from God.

The Preambles

At the request of the Committee the General Assembly of 1973 instructed the Panel on Doctrine to prepare a statement on the doctrine of Christian Marriage with particular reference to its biblical basis. The Panel reported two years later and some of their insights are reflected in the revision of the preambles and in the selection of scripture passages. In particular the Committee noted the Panel's insistence that the Bible is not a "marriage manual" and contains no systematic doctrine of marriage. For that reason the preambles have been modified to speak, only in the broadest terms, of the loving purpose of God and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Scripture references which to be intelligible today would require too much exegesis have been dropped. Marriage is now called a gift of God rather than "a holy estate instituted by God" since the latter implies a time or place actually instituting it. The quasi-institutional overtones of the reference to Cana of Galilee are likewise avoided although our Lord's presence there is still briefly recalled. The note of joy which was curiously absent from earlier services has been introduced. Physical love between man and woman has been given its christian context. Finally the responsibility to children of a marriage is more happily expressed in terms not only of a heritage of faith but now also in terms of security of love.

The Lessons

These have been selected from whatever version or translation seems best to communicate their substance.

Funeral Services

Commendation and Committal

After careful consideration and after sharing the thinking of other churches through the Joint Liturgical Group the Committee has agreed to forms of commendation and committal which are now likely to be used by the great majority of churches in these islands. The merit of these forms is that whatever the spiritual emphasis in the services as a whole, they avoid passing judgement, and clearly reflect the gospel of God's love for all men in words that can be spoken on all occasions and over all men. They commend the deceased to God "trusting in his infinite mercy" and they "commit *his* body to the ground" (or as appropriate) again expressing trust in the mercy of God, and in the victory and reign of Christ.

As in the marriage services psalms and lessons for funeral services have been selected from various versions and translations.

Ordination and Admission of Elders

The order for ordination and admission of elders has been revised in those parts which can be revised: the reproduction of some sections in their original form is required by law.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A volume such as this naturally contains quotations, echoes and reflections from other publications in the same field. The Committee acknowledges its wide-ranging indebtedness but trusts that there has been no infringement of copyright.

Thanks are due to the following for permission to use material as noted:

The S.P.C.K., on behalf of the Joint Liturgical Group, for the Lectionary, the selection and arrangement of both sets of collects, and for original material from the Group (*J.L.G.*); also for prayers from Alternative Services, Series 2 and 3, and *The Daily Office 1968.*

A. R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd., for one collect from *The Prayer Manual* by F. B. McNutt.

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The British Broadcasting Corporation for two collects from *New Every Morning.*

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The International Consultation on English Texts (I.C.E.T.) for liturgical texts adapted for use in the Third Order of Service.

Short extracts of Scripture have been used from the following versions:

Authorised Version (A.V.)

Jerusalem Bible (J.B.)

New English Bible (N.E.B.)

Revised Standard Version (R.S.V.)

Note

In all the services lines which are indented may be said by the whole congregation.

First Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion

THE PREPARATION

The Congregation being assembled, the Minister shall call them to worship, saying:

Let us worship God.

The service shall begin with a Psalm or Hymn.

*Then the minister shall call the people to prayer in the words of holy scripture, such as:**

What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards us? We will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. We will pay our vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

O taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

* Sentences suitable to the seasons of the Christian Year may be substituted.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, who admittest thy people into such wonderful communion that, partaking by a divine mystery of the body and blood of thy dear Son, they should dwell in him, and he in them; we unworthy sinners, approaching thy presence and beholding thy glory, repent of our transgressions. We have sinned, we have grievously sinned against thee, in thought, word and deed. We have broken our past vows, and have dishonoured thy holy name.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Most merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us all our sins; deliver us, by thy Holy Spirit, from all uncleanness in spirit and in flesh; enable us heartily to forgive others, as we pray thee to forgive us, and to serve thee henceforth in newness of life, to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end.
Amen.

Here may be added the Collect for the Day.

Then shall be said or sung the following Canticle:

Glory be to God on high, and in earth, peace, goodwill towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
That takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy, thou only art the Lord;
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art more high in the glory of God the Father.

THE WORD OF GOD

A Lesson from the Old Testament shall be read, after which shall be said:

Thanks be to thee, O God.

Then a Psalm or Hymn or Anthem shall be sung.

Then the Epistle shall be read, after which shall be said:

Thanks be to thee, O God.

Then the Gospel shall be read.

At the reading of the Gospel the congregation may stand.

Then shall be said:

Praise be to thee, O Christ, for this thy glorious Gospel.

Then shall be sung a Psalm or Hymn.

Here the Intimations may be made.

The Sermon shall then be preached, ending with the following or other Ascription.

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father: to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen.

If the Nicene Creed (p…..) is not to be said later in the service it may be said here.

Then a Hymn may be sung.

The Offerings shall then be given and received by the minister at the holy table.

Then the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named: we thy children, gathered round thy holy table, pray thee to hear our intercessions. We pray for thy one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Increase and sanctify her more and more; reveal thy glory among the nations; and hasten the victory of thine eternal kingdom.

We pray for this parish and congregation. Pour out the riches of thy grace upon this people.

We pray for our country, for thy servant Elizabeth our Queen, Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Prince of Wales and Duke of Rothesay, and all the royal family. Give grace and guidance to those who rule and defend us, and establish our nation in righteousness. Give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and keep us from war, pestilence and famine.

We pray for all mankind. Quicken by thy Spirit the sense of brotherhood among men, bring the nations into a new bond of fellowship, and hasten the time when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of thy dear Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The minister shall give an invitation in the words of holy scripture.

Beloved in the Lord, draw near to the holy table, and hear the gracious words of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst . . . him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Then shall be sung the Psalm, "Ye gates lift up your heads", or other suitable Psalm or Hymn.

During the singing the elements of bread and wine shall be brought into the church and laid upon the holy table.

Thereafter, the Nicene Creed shall be said or sung.

> We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:
> And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of

the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Then the minister shall say:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Then shall the minister say these prayers, during which he shall unveil the elements.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the blood of thy dear Son hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all; grant us, we pray thee, the assurance of thy mercy, and sanctify us by thy heavenly grace; that we, approaching thee with pure heart and cleansed conscience, may offer unto thee a sacrifice in righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we offer unto thee this bread and this cup; for all things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee. Blessed be

thy holy name for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all glory, world without end.

Amen.

The following warrant enclosed in square brackets may be omitted at the discretion of the minister, provided that the words of institution are included in the prayer of consecration as printed below.

Then shall the minister say:

[Beloved in the Lord, attend to the words of the institution of the holy supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, as they are delivered by Saint Paul:

I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.]

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

As the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, I take these elements of bread and wine to be set apart from all common uses to this holy use and mystery; and as he gave thanks and blessed, let us draw nigh to God, and present unto him our prayers and thanksgivings.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts:
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
It is meet and right so to do.

It is verily meet, right and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to thee, O holy Lord. Father Almighty, everlasting God: who didst create the heavens and the earth and all that is therein; who didst make man in thine own image and whose tender mercies are over all thy works.

Thee, mighty God, heavenly King, we magnify and praise. With angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we worship and adore thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts,
heaven and earth are full of Thy glory:
Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest.

Verily holy, verily blessed art thou, almighty and merciful God, who didst so love the world that thou gavest thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Not as we ought, but as we are able, we bless thee for his holy incarnation, for his perfect life on earth, for his precious sufferings and death upon the

* Here may be added the Preface according to the Christian Year, see p. 180

Cross, for his glorious resurrection and ascension, for his gift of the Holy Spirit, for his continual intercession and rule at thy right hand, and for the promise of his coming again in the glory of his kingdom. Wherefore, having in remembrance the work and passion of our Saviour Christ, and pleading his eternal sacrifice, we thy servants set forth this memorial, which he hath commanded us to make, who the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." We, therefore, pray thee to send down thy Holy Spirit to sanctify both us and these thine own gifts of bread and wine which we set before thee, that the bread which we break may be the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup of blessing which we bless the communion of the blood of Christ, that we, receiving them, may be made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, and to the glory of thy most holy name.

O God, we pray thee mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and for the sake of the offering made once for all upon the cross, grant unto us and to all thy people the fullness of thy redeeming love. And here we offer and present ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember, O Lord, thy holy Church. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

[*Here may be inserted any special intercessions.*]

Remember, O Lord, our kindred and friends; bless them and keep them and cause thy face to shine upon them.

Remember, O Lord, the sick and the suffering, the aged and the dying, and all who are in loneliness, sorrow or bereavement; and those whom we name in silence before thee. . . . Visit them with thy love and consolation, and grant them thy peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And rejoicing in the communion of saints, we remember with thanksgiving before thee, O Lord, all thy faithful servants, and those dear to us who are at rest in thee. . . . Keep us in unbroken fellowship with thy whole Church in heaven and on earth, and grant us at last to rejoice together in thine eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth, and is worshipped and glorified, with thee, O Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end.

Amen.

And now as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we humbly pray:

Our Father…

Then the minister shall say:

Holy things for holy people.

> One only is holy, one only is Lord, Jesus Christ, in whom are we to the glory of God the Father.

According to the holy institution of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for a memorial of him, we do this: who the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread (*here the minister shall take the bread into his hands*), and when he had blessed and given thanks, he brake it (*here he shall break the bread*), and said, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also, he took the cup (*here he shall raise the cup*), saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Grant us thy peace.

Here silence may be kept for a time.

Then the minister shall himself partake in both kinds.

Thereafter he shall administer holy communion in both kinds first to the elders, then to the people; and in giving the bread, he shall say:

Take ye, eat ye; this is the body of Christ which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of him.

And, in giving the cup:

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ, which is shed for many unto remission of sins; drink ye all of it.

When all have received, and the bread and wine have been replaced on the holy table and covered, the minister shall say:

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Then he shall call the people to thanksgiving, saying:

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us at thy table with this spiritual food and brought us into fellowship with thy whole Church in heaven and on earth, making us heirs through hope of thine everlasting kingdom.

Send us out into the world in the power of thy Spirit, to live and to work to thy praise and glory: through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

Or he may use one of the alternative post-communion prayers to be found on pp. 39-41

Then shall be sung a Psalm or Hymn.

Thereafter the minister shall bless the people from God, saying:

Go in peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

As the elements are being removed from the church, the people shall stand and they may sing the Hymn, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace . . ." in a prose or metrical version.

Second Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion

Those parts of the service the titles of rubrics of which are in square brackets may be omitted.

THE PREPARATION

Salutation, *from the following:*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love undying.

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come.

Collect for Purity

Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Then may be sung a Psalm or Hymn.

Prayers of Approach, Confession and Absolution

Let us pray.

Holy art thou, O Lord our Creator and Father, giving us richly all things to enjoy.
Holy art thou, O Saviour Jesus Christ, made man to set us free.
Holy art thou, O Spirit of truth and love, dwelling in us the Church.
Holy and blessed art thou, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal Trinity.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins.

Let us therefore confess our sins to God.

> Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
> we have sinned against thee and one another, we have sinned in thought, word and in deed, in what we have done, and in what we have left undone.
> In thy mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
> through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Almighty God forgive you your sins, strengthen you by his Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect for the Day *(see p. 133 ff) at the end of which the people may say:*

Amen.

[*Here may be said or sung the Hymn, "Glory be to God on high".*]

THE WORD OF GOD

The Reading of the Old Testament

Which may be introduced thus:

The Old Testament lesson is taken from …
Hear the word of God.

and concluded thus:

The Lord bless to us the reading of his holy word.

Then shall be sung a Psalm, Hymn or Anthem.

The Reading of the Epistle

Which may be introduced thus:

The second lesson is taken from …
Hear the word of God.

The Reading of the Gospel

Which may be introduced thus:

The holy Gospel – the Gospel according to …

and concluded thus:

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Before and after the sermon the following prayer and ascription may be offered:

Let us pray.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord our strength and our redeemer.

Amen.

Unto the Father, and unto the Son, and unto the Holy Spirit, be ascribed in the Church all honour and glory, might, majesty, dominion, and blessing, now and for ever.

Amen.

[*Then may be sung a Hymn or Psalm.*]

Thereafter the Offerings shall be given.

Prayers of Intercession and Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Let us pray.

Let us pray God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to guide and sanctify the Church universal that amid the dangers and confusions of the world she may become, not in dream only but in very truth, the ark and refuge of mankind;

(*Silence*)

Lord in thy mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to bless the Queen and all in authority, to make our industry prosperous and humane, our technology enlightened and our art ennobling, and to give us in all our time-bound tasks the wisdom that is eternal.

(*Silence*)

Lord in thy mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to establish peace on the earth and to give to the peoples and nations, divided and wounded by sin, the fullness and unity of Christ's perfect kingdom.

(*Silence*)

Lord in thy mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to give to us the kindly fruits of the earth, in their season, and to stir in the hearts of men reverence for all his creation, and compassion for all who are hungry.

(*Silence*)

Lord in thy mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Let us commemorate before God the glorious company of the redeemed and the qualities and blessings by which they have enriched the life of man, and let us pray God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to make us to be numbered at the last with those who have done his will and declared his righteousness.

(*Silence*)

Lord in thy mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

[*The minister may say:*]

The table of our Lord Jesus Christ is open to all who are in communion with the Church universal. We therefore invite members of any branch thereof who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, to join with us in this holy fellowship.

[*Here may be said the comfortable words:*]

Beloved in the Lord, Draw near to the holy table, and hear the gracious words of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart: and you will find rest for your souls.

I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger: and he who believes in me shall never thirst; him who comes to me I will not cast out. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be satisfied.

The Great Entrance, *when a Psalm or Hymn shall be sung and the elements of bread and wine shall be brought into the church and laid upon the holy table.*

[The Creed]

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made: who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, nd Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.

And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The minister shall say:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

[**Prayer of the Veil and Offertory Prayer**] *when the minister shall unveil the elements.*

Let us pray.

O God, who by the blood of thy dear Son hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all; help us in faith to enter with him and grant that being pure in heart by grace, we may have part in his true, pure, immortal sacrifice; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty and most merciful Father, out of the fullness of thy gifts, we offer to thee this bread and this cup. Blessed be thy holy name for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If the words of institution included in the prayer of consecration below are not to be used there, the warrant on p. 8 may be read here.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you:

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

It is meet and right so to do.

Truly at all times and in all places we should give

thanks to thee, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, everlasting God: who didst create the heavens and the earth and all that is therein; who didst make man in thine own image and whose tender mercies are over all thy works.

We praise thee for Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent to be the Saviour of the world.

Blessed be the hour in which he was born and the hour in which he died.

Blessed be the dawn of his rising again and the high day of his ascending.

We praise thee that he, having ascended up on high and sitting at thy right hand, sent forth the Holy Spirit upon the Church to be the light and guide of all those who put their trust in thee.

Blessed be the Spirit, the Giver of Life, enabling thy people to proclaim the gospel among all nations and to fulfil with Christ their royal priesthood until he comes again.

Thee mighty God, heavenly King, we magnify and praise. With angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we worship and adore thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

> Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts,
> heaven and earth are full of Thy glory:
> Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High.
> Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord;
> Hosanna in the highest.

Truly holy and blessed is thy Son Jesus Christ,

blessed in all his gifts, blessed in that most holy mystery which he did institute, who in the same night in which he was betrayed took bread and when he had blessed and given thanks he broke it and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: do this in remembrance of me." In the same manner also after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood: do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, having in remembrance his work and passion, we now plead his eternal sacrifice and set forth this memorial which he has commanded us to make. Send down thy Holy Spirit to sanctify both us and these thine own gifts of bread and wine which we set before thee, that the bread which we break may be the communion of the body of Christ, and the cup which we bless the communion of the blood of Christ; that we may receive them to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, and to the glory of thy most holy name.

These things, O Lord, we seek not only for ourselves but for all in the communion of thy Church and especially for … [*here the minister may pray for the sick, and the poor, and for the needs of particular persons; or a short period of silence may be kept*].

Accept this our duty and service, O Father, and graciously accept us also as, in fellowship with all the faithful in heaven and on earth, we pray thee to fulfil in us, and in all men, the purpose of thy redeeming love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose words we are bold to pray and to say,

Our Father…

The Breaking of Bread

[*Here may be said:*]

Holy things to the holy,
One only is holy, Jesus Christ, in whom are we to the glory of God the Father.

O taste and see that the Lord is good:
Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Here the minister shall say:

In obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and for a memorial of him, we do this: who the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread (*here the minister shall take the bread into his hands*), and when he had blessed, and given thanks, he broke it (*here he shall break the bread*), and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: do this in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also, he took the cup (*here he shall raise the cup*), saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood: do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
Grant us thy peace.

The Communion

The minister shall himself partake in both kinds, and in giving the bread, he shall say:

This is the body of Christ which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of him.

And in giving the cup:

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ which is shed for many unto remission of sin; drink from it, all of you.

When all have received, and the bread and wine have been replaced on the holy table and covered, the minister shall say:

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

[Post-communion Prayer.]*

Let us pray.

Strengthen, O Lord, the hands which have been stretched out to receive thy holy things, that they may daily bring forth fruit to thy divine glory. Grant that the ears which have heard thy songs may be closed to the voice of clamour and dispute; that the eyes which have seen thy great love may also behold thy blessed hope; that the tongues which have uttered thy praise may speak the truth; that the feet which have walked in thy courts may walk in the region of light; that the souls and bodies which have fed upon thy living body may be restored to newness of life. And with us may thy great love abide for ever, that we may abundantly render back praise, praise to thine eternal majesty.

Amen.

* Alternative post-communion prayers may be found on pp. 39-41.

Then may be sung a Hymn or Psalm.

Thereafter the minister shall pronounce the Benediction.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, a nd the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

As the elements are being removed from the church, the congregation shall stand and the Hymn, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant" may be sung.

APPENDIX

On p. 20 in place of the comfortable words, the following may be used:

Jesus said, If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him.

Lord I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and your servant shall be whole.

Maranatha. Our Lord comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The **Eucharistic Prayer** *may alternatively begin thus:*

The Lord be with you;

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
It is meet and right so to do.

Truly at all times and in all places we should bless and praise thee, O holy Lord, Father Almighty, everlasting God; for thou hast created earth and sky and sea; thou hast prepared the course of the stars and light, and the attributes of every living thing; thou hast made man in thine own image and thy tender mercies are over all thy works.

and continue thereafter as on p. 23.

Third Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion

THE PREPARATION

The minister says:

Let us worship God.

The service begins with the singing of a suitable Psalm or Hymn, after which the minister calls the people to prayer in words of holy scripture, such as:

How can I repay the Lord for all his gifts to me?
I will take in my hands the cup of salvation and invoke the Lord by name.
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Happy is the man who finds refuge in him.

Collect for Purity and Prayers of Confession and Absolution

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth. If we confess our sins, he is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

Let us together confess our sins:

> Almighty God, our Father, we have sinned against you and one another, in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to correct what we are, and direct what we shall be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May God forgive you your sins, strengthen you by his Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord, you have assured us of your continuing love and grace. Help us now in faith, hope and love to share in this worship to your honour and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Collect for the Day *(see p. 151 ff)*
at the end of which the people may say:
Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Reading of the Old Testament

Hear the word of God.
The Old Testament lesson is taken from . . .

After the reading there may be said:
Thanks be to God.

A Psalm or Hymn may be sung.

Reading from the Epistle and Gospel

The Epistle is taken from …

After the reading there may be said:
Thanks be to God.
The Gospel is taken from …

After the reading there may be said:
Thanks be to God.

Sermon. *The sermon may conclude with the words:*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Confession of Faith

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

WE BELIEVE in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

WE BELIEVE in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, one in being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfilment of the Scriptures:
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father (and the Son).
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
WE BELIEVE in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Offerings may be collected at this point and retained to be presented at the Great Entrance.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

We believe it to be your will, our God, to bless in answer to prayer. Hear us as we pray:

for the whole world, for all nations and their governments, that there may be freedom, peace, and plenty in all parts of the earth;

for the Church in all its branches, that its zeal may be rekindled, its faith renewed, and its unity restored;

for one another, that we may all truly receive the benefits Christ offers in the sacrament of his body and blood;

for those of our fellowship not with us today through illness, work, absence from home, or carelessness, that the presence of Christ may be known to them also;

for our homes and families, for our neighbours, and for the places where we work and those we meet there, that in the encounters of each day men may learn through us of your Son's love for them;

for the schools and colleges of our parish (town, city, region) that in them our children and young people may be prepared in mind and spirit to meet the opportunities and face the confusion of our times;

for the sick and the suffering, the careworn and the sad, remembering in silence any whose need lies heavily upon our hearts … and for the dying, that they may depart unafraid and in peace;

for . . . (*Here may be added other intercessions appropriate to the time.*)

This we ask in the name and for the sake of him who lives to make intercession for us: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Great Entrance

A Hymn or Psalm is sung during which the bread and wine and the offerings are brought forward, and the minister says:

The gifts of God for the people of God.

This is our joyful feast.

Men will come from east and west, and from north and south and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

This is the Lord's table.
(*Here he unveils the bread and wine.*)

Our Saviour invites those who trust him to share the feast he has prepared.

Let us pray.

Out of the fullness of your gifts, our Father, we make our offerings to you and present this bread and this wine at your table.

We do not trust in our own goodness, Lord, but in your all-embracing love and mercy.

We are not fit even to pick up the crumbs under your table; but it is your nature to be merciful to everyone. Grant therefore that, as we eat the body of your Son,

and drink his blood, we may always remain in him and he in us.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit let us follow the example of our Lord in word and action.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed our duty and delight always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise, Almighty God, eternal and holy Father.

In the beginning you brought the universe into being from nothing.

You created life by your Spirit.

When we and all mankind had fallen, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to raise us again; in him, you make us into one body, the Church, which belongs to you and serves you.

Through the Spirit, who fills the hearts of the faithful, you give us light, strength, and love.

For this, and all your goodness to us, known and unknown, we give you thanks with the Church

universal, and with the whole company of heaven we praise you in the angels' hymn:

> Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
> heaven and earth are full of your glory.
> Hosanna in the highest.
> Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
> Hosanna in the highest.

Your Son Jesus Christ is to be thanked and praised for his gifts and, above all, for that holy mystery which he instituted, who, on the night of his betrayal, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, as we have done, he broke it and said: "This is my body which is for you. Do this remembering me." In the same way he took the cup and said: "This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it remembering me."

Remembering, therefore, his life and work, looking for his coming again, and pleading his eternal sacrifice we do this in obedience to his command. By the presence and power of the Holy Spirit bless and consecrate these gifts so that the bread which we break may be for us a sharing in the body of Christ, and the cup which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of sins and the hallowing of all our lives and work. So may we ourselves become a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for your acceptance.

In one household of faith and love with those who have gone before us, and with your whole Church throughout all the world, we, your children, gathered at our Father's table, pray you to fulfil your will and

purpose in us and all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom, with you our Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, may the whole creation give worship and praise now and for ever.

And, as our Saviour Christ taught us we pray:

Our Father…

The Action

The minister says:

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

We do this in obedience to Christ's example and appointment. On the night of his betrayal, he took bread (*here the minister takes bread into his hands*), and after giving thanks to God, he broke it (*here the minister breaks it*), and said, "This is my body which is for you: do this remembering me."

In the same way, he took the cup (*here the minister raises the cup*), and said: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it remembering me."

Jesus Lamb of God:
have mercy upon us.
Jesus bearer of our sins:
have mercy upon us.
Jesus redeemer of the world:
give us your peace.

The Communion

The minister himself receives in both kinds and, in giving bread, shall say:

Take this and eat it: this is the body of Christ, which is broken for you. Do this remembering him.

And, in giving the cup:

This cup is the new covenant sealed by Christ's blood which was shed that the sins of many might be forgiven. Drink from it, all of you.

When all have received, the vessels are returned to the Holy Table and covered.

Post-communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God, our Father, we thank you for permitting us to take part in your holy mysteries; through the working of your Spirit, may the life of Christ turn our fears to freedom and help us to live for others.

May the strength of Christ lead us in our living through whatever of joy or sorrow awaits us.

To Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Alternative post-communion prayers may be found on pp. 32.

Then a Psalm or Hymn is sung.

The minister blesses the people:

Go in peace.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

ALTERNATIVE POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Father, we thank thee for this food from heaven, the life of thy dear Son. We thank thee that we are members of his body, part of his fullness. Help us by thy grace to continue in this loving, serving, saving fellowship; to continue his work and walk in his steps until we come to his eternal kingdom with the blessed company of all who know and love him.

Continue, we pray thee, O Lord, with this thy family, and guard with watchful tenderness the hearts which have been hallowed by thy sacred mysteries; that as by thy mercy we have received the healing gift of eternal salvation, so by thy protection we may retain it unto life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, thou hast put gladness in our hearts, satisfying our hunger with good things. Thou givest all, thou givest thyself: what can we withhold from thee, our Lord and our God?

Grant us daily, O Lord, the gift of thy Spirit, and, by thy mercy, keep united in heart and mind those whom thou hast fed with one heavenly food: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord our God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; we render to thee all glory, thanks and praise for thy great goodness, in that thou hast permitted us to make this memorial of thy Son our Saviour and his sacrifice upon the cross; and hast fed us at thy table with this spiritual food. And we pray thee so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in this fellowship, and live henceforth to thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end.

Almighty Father, thou hast satisfied us with the food of the faithful, the bread of heaven and the wine that maketh most glad the heart of man; grant that we who have rejoiced in thy gifts may go forth from this place to serve thee, and that daily renewed by thy Spirit we may faithfully walk in the footsteps of thy well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thou hast opened to us the scriptures, O Christ, and hast been known to us in the breaking of bread: stay with us, we pray thee, that we may go in the strength of thy presence and thy truth all our journey through, and at its end behold thee in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God for ever and ever.

Most gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. We ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ our God, king of the ages, we thank you for all your good gifts, and especially for our share in your pure and life-giving mysteries. Grant us always worthily to receive your body and your blood, for the remission of sin and for eternal life. You are the bread of life, the well of holiness, and we give you glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

O God, in your holy mysteries you have graciously fed us with the flesh and blood of your dear Son; we pray that all who faithfully receive him may grow up in the communion of the body of Christ, and finally attain to the glory of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Order of Service for Public Worship

The main Sunday Service when the Lord's Supper is not celebrated.

APPROACH TO GOD

Call to worship

Praise

Call to prayer: (in words of holy scripture)

Prayers: Adoration
Confession
Absolution
Supplication
(Collect for the Day)

Praise

THE WORD OF GOD: HIS MIGHTY ACTS

(*A prayer for illumination or the Collect for the Day may be said in association with the Readings or the Sermon. The Readings may be separated by Praise, traditionally from the Psalms.*)

Scripture Readings: Old Testament
New Testament – Epistle
New Testament – Gospel
(The Apostles' Creed)

Praise

The Sermon: concluded with an Ascription of Praise.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Praise
(The Apostles' Creed)

Prayers:

- Intercession
- Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

The Offerings

Prayers:

- Thanksgiving
- Self-dedication
- The Lord's Prayer

Praise

Praise
(The Apostles' Creed)

The Offerings

Prayers:

- Thanksgiving
- Self-dedication
- Intercession
- Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
- The Lord's Prayer

Praise

DISMISSAL AND BENEDICTION

A Shorter Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion

Each service of Holy Communion has been prepared for use as the principal service on a Sunday morning.

When a shorter service may be desired, e.g. at an afternoon or evening service; at a meeting of a court of the Church; in a hospital ward; or at a conference, or other specially convened gathering, the first and second parts of the service may be abbreviated at the discretion of the minister. These shorter services normally include:

Prayers of Approach and Confession, with Declaration of Forgiveness

A Lesson from one of the Gospels

A Sermon or Homily

The third part of the service, THE LORD'S SUPPER, should be used as printed.

For the celebration of the sacrament in the homes of the sick or aged, the minister should first read the words of scripture

Order
I, page 1
II, page 15
III, page 29

} and then continue in the Prayer of Consecration at the words:

Order
I "Verily holy, verily blessed", p. 9
II "Truly holy and blessed", p. 23
III "Your Son Jesus Christ is to be thanked and praised", p. 36

} and continue to the end of the Order.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Order for the Administration of Holy Baptism

During the singing of a suitable Hymn, the infants shall be brought into the church, and the minister, standing at the font, shall say:

Beloved in the Lord, the Gospel tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ was himself baptized for our sake in the river Jordan and the Spirit came upon him.

More than that, the Gospel transmits to us the command of the risen Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

The Church remembers also the words of the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost:

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him.

The sacrament of baptism is the appointed way of entrance into Christ's Church.

It assures us of the washing away of sin, the start of a new life in Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This promise is for believers, and also for their children, whose christian upbringing is committed to their parents and to the congregation.

Consider also these words from the Gospels:

They were bringing children to Jesus, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

It is the duty of those who present their children for baptism to confess the faith wherein they are to be baptized, and to promise to bring them up in that faith, and in the way of Christ and his Church.

Then, the parents or other sponsors standing, the minister shall say to them:

Do you present *this child* to be baptized, earnestly desiring that *he* may be grafted into Christ as a member of his body the Church?

Answer. I do.

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Answer. I do.

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to teach *this child* the truths and duties of the christian faith; and by prayer and example to bring *him* up in the life and worship of the Church?

Answer. I do.

Then the minister shall say:

The Lord bless you and your *child* and enable you faithfully to keep these promises.

Then, addressing the congregation, he shall say:

This sacrament lays solemn obligations upon you the people of God. Will you be faithful to your calling as members of the Church of Christ, so that *this child,* and all other children in your midst, may grow up in the knowledge and love of Christ? In acceptance of this responsibility, let all stand.

The minister shall then say:

Let us confess the faith.

> I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
> And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Then the minister shall call the people to prayer, saying:

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.

Blessed are thou, O God the Father, Creator of all things.

Blessed art thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, baptized in Jordan, crucified at Calvary, risen and glorified.

Blessed art thou, O Holy Spirit of God, Lord and Giver of Life.

Send forth thy Holy Spirit, O God, to sanctify us all and to bless this water that *this child* may be born anew of water and the Holy Spirit. Grant that *he* may rise with Christ into newness of life and remain for ever in the number of thy chosen people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Or this prayer may be used:

Blessed be God our Father, the Creator.
Blessed be God the Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Blessed be God the Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life.
Grant to us, eternal God, the living presence of the risen Christ within this sacrament. Bless this water, and fulfil your pentecostal promise – that *this child*, being born again of water and the Holy Spirit, may be made part of your new creation, united for ever

with Christ as a member of the Church, his body; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Then the parent, or other sponsor, presenting the child at the font (the congregation standing) shall give the child's name to the minister: and the minister, who may then take the child into his arms, shall call him *by* his *christian name or names and shall pour or sprinkle water on his head, saying:*

N.... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, descend upon you, and dwell in your heart for ever.

Amen.

This formula and blessing shall be repeated for each child.

Then may be said or sung:

> The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Thereafter the minister, using the christian name(s) and surname of each child baptized, shall say:

According to Christ's commandment N . . . . M . . . . *is* now received into the membership of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and *is* engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and to be his faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end.

[*Here may be read:*

Jesus said: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in Heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 18: 5, 6 and 10

After which the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

O God our heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ took little ones into his arms and blessed them: we give thee thanks that thou hast received *this child* into thy Church and sealed *him* as thine own. Grant that *he*, being grafted into Christ, the true vine, may abide in him for ever, growing in wisdom as in stature, and in favour with God and man. Lead *him* through the perils of this earthly life, and bring *him* in due time to thy holy table to receive the communion of the body and blood of Christ, that by grace *he* may witness a good confession, and persevere therein to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, we thank thee for thy love and mercy to *this mother* whom thou hast delivered to rejoice over *her* little *one*. Hallow the *home* enriched by the birth of *this child*. Grant thy help to the parents that in gratitude and faith they may order their family life in the way of thy commandments, serving one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God, in whose Church there is but one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, grant us grace ever to acknowledge the lordship of thy Son Jesus Christ, to confess with our whole lives the one true faith, and to dwell in love and unity with all who have been baptized into his name; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who taught his Church ever to pray and say:

Our Father…

Or these prayers may be used:

Almighty God, remembering the welcome and the blessing that your Son gave to the little children who were brought to him in Galilee, we thank you for your welcome of *this child* as *a member* of Christ's Church. Grant that as *he* grows in years *he* may also grow in understanding and in faith. Lead *him* by the Holy Spirit safely through the years of childhood, until *he* is ready to profess *his* faith in the salvation you have pledged to *him* today.

Your Son has been part of a family home in Nazareth. Let his peace, and his joy, be known within the *home* of *this child*, and give wisdom to *his* parents, that their family life may be enriched by faith, sustained by prayer, and inspired by the knowledge of your love.

Give all of us, Father, the grace to respond worthily to the great gift that you have given us in our baptism: grace to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to serve him in every part of our daily life, and to live in unity and fellowship within the Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Father…

Use may also be made of the following prayers:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst humble thyself to take the baptism of sinful men, and wast there declared to be the Son of God; grant that we who have been baptized in thee may rejoice to be the sons of God, and servants of all; for thy name's sake, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit art one God for ever and ever.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who hast given us the sacrament of holy baptism that souls being born again may be made heirs of everlasting salvation; we yield thee thanks for this gift, and beseech thee to grant that we who have been partakers of the death of thy Son may also share in his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home; bless, we beseech Thee, the *home* of *this child*, and grant wisdom and understanding to all who have the care of *him*, that *he* may grow up in thy constant fear and love; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and declared him to be your Son: send your Holy Spirit upon us who have been baptized in his name, that we may surrender our lives to your service and rejoice to be called the sons of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Then may be sung a Hymn or Doxology.

Thereafter, the minister shall pronounce the Benediction:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

NOTES

1. It is assumed that the Administration of Holy Baptism normally follows the Preaching of the Word.

2. When a sermon on baptism is preached the lessons may be taken from the following:

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 6: 9-22; Exodus 14: 19-31; II Kings 5:9-14; Jeremiah 31: 27-34; Ezekiel 36: 25-28.

NEW TESTAMENT: *Epistles:* Romans 6: 3-14; I Corinthians 10: 1-13; Ephesians 4:1-7; Hebrews 9:11-14.
Gospels: Matthew 3: 13-17; Mark 10: 35-40; Luke 12: 49-53; John 3: 1-6.

Confirmation and Admission to the Lord's Supper

The Kirk Session shall be constituted prior to this service and the minister shall submit the names of those who have been instructed in the faith and prepared for their first communion.Being satisfied of their knowledge and character the Kirk Session shall resolve to receive them publicly into the fellowship of the Lord's table.

The service should follow the outline on pp. 42-43 to the end of the Intercessions. Thereafter the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved – The Kirk Session, being satisfied of the christian knowledge and profession of the persons now to be named, has resolved to admit them to participation in the Lord's supper. They will profess publicly the faith into which they were baptized, be confirmed by the Holy Spirit, and be received into the fellowship of the Lord's table.

Those named shall come forward and stand before the minister, who shall address them, saying:

Beloved in the Lord – In the days of your infancy you were by holy baptism grafted into the Lord Jesus Christ as members of his Church. Now, having reached years of responsibility, you come of your own choice to acknowledge before God and his Church the covenant of grace of which you were made heirs; to profess your faith in the Lord Jesus; to offer yourselves to him in the service of the Church and the world; and to receive the gifts and strengthening power of the Holy Spirit.

It is written:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

As a confession of your faith, we now ask you to answer these questions, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus Christ who said: "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?
Answer: I do.

Do you promise to join regularly with your fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's Day?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to be faithful in reading the bible, and in prayer?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents, and money for the Church's work in the world?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to confess Christ before men, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?

Answer: I do.

Then the minister shall say:

The Lord bless you and enable you faithfully to keep these promises.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, by baptism thou hast made us members of the Church of Jesus Christ. Confirm the faith of these who now commit themselves to him. Grant them strength, and loyalty, and perseverance; let the blessing of the Spirit rest upon them. With Christ dwelling in them all the days of their life, may their joy in his service be complete; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Almighty God, in baptism you have made us one with Christ our Saviour in his dying and in his rising from the dead. By your grace alone we have been accepted and called through faith to your service. Grant to these your servants the confirming power of your Holy Spirit, and keep them worthy of their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation shall stand, and those being confirmed shall kneel. The minister may lay his hand on the head of each, and give a blessing in the words of a Scripture sentence, e.g.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13, R.S.V.)

Out of the treasures of his glory may God grant you

strength and power through his Spirit in your inner being, that through faith Christ may dwell in your hearts in love. (Ephesians 3:16, 17, N.E.B.)

May the Lord so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. (1 Thessalonians 3:13, J.B.)

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you. (1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24, J.B.)

Or a scriptural charge may be given, individually or to a group, e.g.,

Stand firm and immovable, and work for the Lord always, work without limit, since you know that in the Lord your labour cannot be lost. (1 Corinthians 15:58, N.E.B.)

Be alert; stand firm in the faith; be valiant and strong. Let all you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:13, 14, N.E.B.)

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17, R.S.V.)

Use your most holy faith as your foundation and build on that praying in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 20, J.B.)

Be experts in goodness but simpletons in evil; and the God of peace will soon crush Satan beneath your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you! (Romans 16:20, N.E.B.)

Or one of the following prayers may be used:

The God of all grace, who hath called you to his eternal glory, confirm you by his Spirit that you may be established in his Covenant and be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Defend, O Lord, these thy servants with thy heavenly grace, that they may continue thine for ever: and daily increase in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until they come unto thy everlasting kingdom.

Amen.

May God, whose love has brought you to this day, give you the grace to offer back your very selves to him; a living sacrifice, dedicated, fit for his acceptance, through the mercy and the power of Jesus Christ his Son.

Amen.

Those confirmed shall stand, and the minister shall say:

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the king and head of the Church, and by authority of this Kirk Session, I now admit you to the fellowship of the Lord's table, within the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. In token thereof we give you the right hand of fellowship.

When all have returned to their places the minister shall say:

Let all stand and confess the faith.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Here the holy communion may be celebrated. If not, the following prayers may be said.

The minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

O God most glorious, we thank thee for thy Church. We bless thee for the light of the Gospel and the ministries of word and sacrament. We praise thee for the good and holy lives which have enriched thy people, and proclaimed thy grace. We thank thee for thy great mercy to thy children confirmed this day by thy Holy Spirit; for their baptism into Christ; and for every influence which has led them to faith in him.

Grant, O Lord, that they, with all who shall receive the communion of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, may approach that holy mystery in

charity and true penitence, and by faith feed on him who gives life to the world, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Blessed be God our Father, the Creator.

Blessed be God the Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Blessed be God the Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life.

O God most glorious, we praise you for your Church, the bride of Christ, for the privilege that is ours of sharing in her life.
We bless you for your word read and preached and received in faith; for the sacrament of baptism by which you brought us into the Church; and for all good and holy lives you have used to lead us to faith in Christ. Grant, O Lord, that those newly confirmed, with all who shall receive the communion of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, may come to his holy table in joy and expectation, and feed on him who alone gives life to the world, and turns no man away, Jesus Christ the Saviour.

Amen.

Our Father…

A Psalm or Hymn shall be sung. Thereafter the minister shall dismiss the people saying:

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all men; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Holy Baptism, Confirmation and Admission to the Lord's Supper

The Kirk Session shall be constituted prior to this service and the minister shall submit the names of those who have been instructed in the faith and prepared for their first communion.Being satisfied of their christian knowledge and character, the Kirk Session shall resolve to receive them publicly into the fellowship of the Lord's table.

The service should follow the outline on pp.42-43 to the end of the Intercessions. Thereafter the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved – The Kirk Session, being satisfied of the christian knowledge and character of the persons now to be named, has resolved to admit them to participation in the Lord's supper, and to the full rights and privileges of membership of the Church.

Those named shall come forward and stand before the minister, who shall address them, saying:

In holy baptism believers and their children are received by name into the Church and sealed as members of the body of Christ. Some of you were baptized in infancy; others of you are now presenting yourselves for baptism. All of you come of your own choice to profess your faith in the Lord Jesus, to offer yourselves to him in the service of the Church and the world; and to receive the gifts and strengthening power of the Holy Spirit.

It is written:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22, 23, 25)

As a confession of your faith, we now ask you to answer these questions, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus:

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." (St. Matthew 10:32)

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to join regularly with your fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's Day?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to be faithful in reading the bible, and in prayer?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents, and money for the Church's work in the world?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to confess Christ before men, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?

Answer: I do.

Then the minister shall say:

The Lord bless you, and enable you faithfully to keep these promises.

Then, addressing those who have not been baptized, the minister shall say:

Do you repent of your sins with a humble and contrite heart, and acknowledge your dependence on the grace and mercy of God which are in Christ Jesus?

Answer: I do.

Do you present yourself to be baptized, earnestly desiring that you may be grafted into Christ as a member of his body the Church?

Answer: I do.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who didst so love the world that thou gavest thine only Son to save us from sin and eternal death, we thank thee for him, for his baptism in the Jordan and in his own blood on the cross, for his resurrection and exaltation, and for his gift of the Holy Spirit. We thank thee for his command to his Church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them, and pray that those baptized may be born anew of water and the Holy Spirit, and receive the fulness of thy grace. Grant that their names may be written in the Lamb's book of life, and that, buried with Christ in baptism, they may rise with him into newness of life and be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.

Eternal God, confirm the faith of these who now commit themselves to Jesus Christ. Grant them strength and loyalty and perseverance; let the blessing of thy Spirit rest upon them. With Christ dwelling in them all the days of their life, may their joy in his service be complete; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Or

Almighty God, in love you sent your Son into the world that we might be saved from sin and enter into life in all its fulness: we praise you for his birth and baptism, his death and resurrection, and for the gift of the Holy Spirit. We thank you that in baptism we are buried with him, so that through faith in your power, we may be raised to life with him. Grant us, therefore, eternal God, the blessing of your Holy Spirit on this water, and his living presence in the sacrament. Fulfil your pentecostal promise – that (he who is) baptized, being born again of water and the Holy Spirit, may be made part of your new creation, united for ever with Christ as (a) member(s) of the Church, his body.

Almighty God, since it is by your grace alone that we have been accepted and called to your service, we pray you to grant to these your servants the confirming power of your Holy Spirit, and to keep them worthy of their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(*Then may be sung the Hymn:* Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire.)

Baptism

The congregation shall stand and those to be baptized shall kneel, and the minister, calling each by his christian name, or names, shall pour or sprinkle water on his head, saying:

N..... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confirmation

The newly baptized shall join those who were baptized in infancy and all shall kneel. The minister may lay his hand on the head of each, and give a blessing in the words of a scripture sentence, e.g.:

(Continue as previous service, p. 55.)

The Administration of Holy Baptism to Adults

The candidate(s) shall stand, with head uncovered, before the minister, who shall say:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Beloved in the Lord, hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ who commanded his disciples, saying:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

The sacrament of baptism is the appointed way of entrance into Christ's Church. It assures us of the washing away of sin, the start of a new life and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Consider also these words of our Lord:

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

"Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Then the minister shall say:

Let all stand.

He shall then address to the candidate(s) these questions:

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Answer: I do.

Do you repent of your sins and trust in God's mercy in Jesus Christ?

Answer: I do.

Do you promise, with God's help, to serve the Lord and to continue in the fellowship of his Church all the days of your life?

Answer: I do.

Then the minister shall say:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The minister shall address others present saying:

Receive with affection this *brother/sister*; study to show *him/her* a good example in christian duty and devotion, living in peace and charity in the fellowship of the people of God.

In token of our unity in the faith of the one universal Church let us together make confession of our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

> I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
> And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from

the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Then the minister shall say:

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Here silence shall be kept for a space.

Blessed are thou, O God the Father, Creator of all things.

Blessed art thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, baptized in Jordan, crucified at Calvary, risen and glorified.

Blessed art thou, O Holy Spirit of God, Lord and Giver of Life.

Send forth thy Holy Spirit, O God, to sanctify us all and to bless this water that thy servant(s) may know this sacrament to be a sign and seal of *his* grafting into Christ, of regeneration and adoption into everlasting life. Grant that being buried with Christ in baptism, *he* may rise with him into newness of life and be numbered with thy Church on earth and in heaven: through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Blessed be God our Father, the Creator.

Blessed be God the Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Blessed be God the Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life.

Grant, eternal God, your Holy Spirit, to bless us and this water, and to be present in the sacrament. Fulfil your pentecostal promise – that this, your servant, being born again of water and the Holy Spirit, may be made part of your new creation, united for ever with Christ as a member of the Church, his body; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Then the candidate(s) shall kneel at the font and the minister shall call each by his christian name(s) and pour or sprinkle water on his head, saying:

N..... I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

And laying his hands on the head of each candidate, the minister shall pronounce this blessing over him/her:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you, and dwell in your heart for ever.

Amen.

Thereafter the minister, using the christian name(s) and surname of each person baptized, shall say:

According to Christ's commandment, N..... *is* now received into membership of the one, holy,

catholic and apostolic Church, and *is* engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and to be his faithful soldier and servant to *his* life's end.

After which the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Most merciful God, in whose Church there is but one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, grant us grace ever to acknowledge the lordship of thy Son Jesus Christ, to confess with our whole lives the one true faith, and to dwell in love and unity with all who have been baptized into his name; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who taught his Church ever to pray, and say:

Our Father…

Or

Give all of us, Father, the grace to respond worthily to the great gift you have given us in our baptism: grace to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, to serve him in every part of our daily life, and to live in unity and fellowship within the Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father…

Thereafter the minister shall pronounce the Benediction:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Amen.

First Order for the Celebration of Marriage

This service may begin with the singing of a suitable Hymn during which the minister may lead in the bride. The bridegroom standing on the right side of the bride and at least two witnesses being present the minister shall say:

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders will have toiled in vain.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth.

Beloved, we have come together in the house of God to celebrate the marriage of this man and this woman, in the assurance that the Lord Jesus Christ, whose power was revealed at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, is present with us here in all his power and his love.

Marriage is provided by God as part of his loving purpose for humanity since the beginning of creation. Jesus said, "The Creator made them from the beginning male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be made one with his wife: and the two shall become one flesh."

Marriage is enriched by God for all who have faith in the Gospel, for through the saving grace of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit husband and wife can love one another as Christ loves them.

Marriage is thus a gift and calling of God and is not to be undertaken lightly or from selfish motives but with reverence and dedication, with faith in the enabling power of Christ, and with due awareness of the purpose for which it is appointed by God.

Marriage is appointed that there may be lifelong companionship, comfort and joy between husband and wife.

It is appointed as the right and proper setting for the full expression of physical love between man and woman.

It is appointed for the ordering of family life, where children – who are also God's gifts to us – may enjoy the security of love and the heritage of faith.

It is appointed for the well-being of human society, which can be stable and happy only where the marriage bond is honoured and upheld.

Then addressing the couple the minister shall say:

A… and B… you seek to be joined in marriage. I am required to ask you, if you know any reason why you may not lawfully be married to each other, to declare it now.

Since no such reason has been declared let us ask God's blessing on this union. Let us pray.

Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we praise thee for thy goodness and for thy many gifts. Thy power created us, thy Son redeemed us, thy Spirit sets us free to love. For the richness and variety of life; for the providence which guides us and directs our path; and for the happiness of deep relationships with one another, we give thanks to thee. Especially today we bless thee for the gift of marriage, by which human love is hallowed and made perfect. For the joy that A…… and B…… have found in one another, and for the love and trust in which

they enter this covenant of marriage, we give thanks to thee, Lord God.

Give them thy Spirit that the vows they make to one another in thy presence may be the beginning of a true and life-long union. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of life.

Amen.

Then, the congregation standing, the minister shall say to the bride and bridegroom:

As a seal to the vows you are about to make, give each other the right hand.

Then they shall say after him:

I, A……, now take you, B……, to be my wife. In the presence of God and before these witnesses I promise to be a loving, faithful and loyal husband to you, until God shall separate us by death.

I, B…, now take you, A…, to be my husband. In the presence of God and before these witnesses I promise to be a loving, faithful and loyal wife to you, until God shall separate us by death.

Alternatively, this form may be used:

Do you, A…, now take B…, to be your wife; and do you promise, in the presence of God and before these witnesses, to be a loving, faithful and loyal husband to her, until God shall separate you by death?

Answer: I do.

Do you, B……, now take A……, to be your husband; and do you promise, in the presence of God and before these witnesses, to be a loving, faithful and loyal wife to him, until God shall separate you by death?

Answer: I do.

Here the ring(s) shall be given to the minister, who shall return it (them) saying:

As a token of the covenant into which you have entered, *this ring is* given and received.

The ring(s) being placed on the fourth finger of the left hand the minister shall say:

By this sign you take each other, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish, till death do you part.

Then the minister may join the hands of the couple and shall say:

Since you have now pledged yourselves to one another in the covenant of marriage, and have made your declaration before God, and these witnesses, I pronounce you to be husband and wife. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Those whom God has joined together, man must not separate.

Then he shall bless them as they kneel, saying:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. The Lord pour out the riches of his grace upon you, that you may please him, and live together in holy love until your lives' end.

Amen.

or

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and evermore.

Amen.

Then a Hymn may be sung.

Here Scripture shall be read.

A short address may be given.

Then the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose love is the source of all good things; we pray that knowledge of thy love will inspire the union which has now begun. Grant that those who have been joined in thy name may live in harmony and true companionship throughout their life together – seeking one another's welfare, bearing one another's burdens, and sharing one another's joys. (Bless their union with the gift of children.) Give them the resources to live without the fear of poverty,

and grant them joy in their (new) home. Father, keep them true to the faith in which this marriage has begun, that they may always walk within the light and love of Christ, strengthened by the Spirit against all temptation; and when mortal life is over, bring them in thy mercy to the joy of that life which shall have no ending, in the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our Father…

Then a Hymn may be sung, after which the minister pronounces the Benediction.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

Second Order for the Celebration of Marriage

The bridegroom and bride standing together before the holy table, and witnesses being present, the minister shall first ask:

A… and B… you stand here answerable to God, with ourselves as witnesses. Do you come freely and sincerely seeking marriage with one another? Do you know yourselves to be free in law to marry, ready and able to enter fully into married life?

Answer: I do.

Then let us pray to God.

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your people with the fire of your divine love.

Father Eternal, send forth the Spirit and we shall be remade; and you will renew the face of all things; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Hymn may be sung.

The minister shall then say:

We who are Christians share with many others a belief in the importance of marriage. Marriage should be respected by all and its vows faithfully kept. God himself will judge anyone who fails to respect the union of husband and wife.

As Christians, we see marriage appointed by God for the life-long companionship and support which husband and wife ought to give each other.

We regard marriage as the happy and holy setting for the full expression of physical love.

In a loving marriage children receive a welcome as God's gift, and are brought up to honour the Lord.

Respect for the marriage bond strengthens human society within God's purpose of love.

We believe, on the authority of Jesus and his use of scripture, that the marriage relationship is as basic as the creating of man and woman.

Jesus said "The Creator made them from the beginning male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and be made one with his wife; and the two shall become one flesh."

Our faith is that God guides christian people to decide whether or not to marry. Through the saving grace of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit husband and wife can love one another as Christ loves them.

In a spirit of rejoicing all of us in the congregation now rise to our feet, and stand with A... and B... as they make their marriage vows.

Then, the congregation standing, the minister shall say to the bride and bridegroom:

As a seal to the vows you are about to make, give each other the right hand.

Then they shall say after him:

I, A...now take you, B...to be my wife. In the presence of God and before these witnesses I promise to be a loving, faithful and loyal husband to you, until God shall separate us by death.

I, B…, now take you, A…, to be my husband. In the presence of God and before these witnesses I promise to be a loving, faithful and loyal wife to you, until God shall separate us by death.

Alternatively, this form may be used:

Do you, A…now take B…to be your wife; and do you promise, in the presence of God and before these witnesses, to be a loving, faithful and loyal husband to her, until God shall separate you by death?

Answer: I do.

Do you, B… now take A… to be your husband; and do you promise, in the presence of God and before these witnesses, to be a loving, faithful and loyal wife to him, until God shall separate you by death?

Answer: I do.

In silence the bridegroom and bride give each other a ring.

Then the minister may join the hands of the couple and shall say:

In the light of the love that led you here, and of the promises you have made to one another before God, I declare you to be husband and wife. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Those whom God has joined together, man must not separate.

The bride and bridegroom kneel for a blessing.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. The Lord pour out the riches of his grace upon you, that you may please him, and live together in holy love until your lives' end.

Amen.

or

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Amen.

The congregation being seated a short address may be given.

A Hymn may be sung.

Here Scripture shall be read.

Then the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

God of wonder and joy, you have given A… and B… grace to see one another in the special light of love. Continue their vision, deepen their love; keep them in your heart.

(Bless the homes from which they have come and the families who have given them to each other.)

Father, as A… and B… go forward into married life, bless their new home. Wherever they go, establish them in the life and worship of the Church and surround them with true neighbours and friends.

Give them the means to be generous and a readiness to welcome others. Enrich their marriage with the love and gift of children.

Come joy, come sorrow, keep them to the last thankful for your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Father…

Then a Hymn may be sung.

The minister shall bless the people from God.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

Suggested Lections for the Marriage Service

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned. (The Song of Solomon 8:7, R.S.V.)

Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, not quick to take offence. Love keeps

no score of wrongs; does not gloat over other men's sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance. Love will never come to an end. In a word, there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of them all is love. (I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13, N.E.B.)

I kneel in prayer to the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name, that out of the treasures of his glory he may grant you strength and power through his Spirit in your inner being, that through faith Christ may dwell in your hearts in love. With deep roots and firm foundations, may you be strong to grasp, with all God's people, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, and to know it, though it is beyond knowledge. So may you attain to fullness of being, the fullness of God himself. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive, by the power which is at work among us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation evermore! Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21, N.E.B.)

In a word, as God's dear children, try to be like him, and live in love as Christ loved you, and gave himself up on your behalf as an offering and sacrifice whose fragrance is pleasing to God.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as to the Lord; for the man is the head of the woman, just as Christ also is the head of the Church. Christ is, indeed, the

Saviour of the body; but just as the Church is subject to Christ, so must women be to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ also loved the Church and gave himself up for it, to consecrate it, cleansing it by water and word, so that he might present the Church to himself all glorious, with no stain or wrinkle or anything of the sort, but holy and without blemish. In the same way men also are bound to love their wives, as they love their own bodies. In loving his wife a man loves himself. For no one ever hated his own body: on the contrary, he provides and cares for it; and that is how Christ treats the Church, because it is his body, of which we are living parts. Thus it is that (in the words of Scripture) "a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." It is a great truth that is hidden here. I for my part refer it to Christ and to the Church, but it applies also individually; each of you must love his wife as his very self; and the woman must see to it that she pays her husband all respect. (Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33, N.E.B.)

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These words have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. (John 15:9-12, A.V.)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3-10, R.S.V.)

Also: Matt. 7:21, 24-27; Rev. 19:1, 5-9a; Ecclesiasticus 26:1-4.

Hymns for Marriage Services

(The hymns suggested are from *The Church Hymnary: Third Edition*)

No.

1 (Psalm 100) All people that on earth do dwell
4 (Psalm 84 vv. 1-5) How lovely is thy dwelling-place
9 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation
10 Christ is made the sure foundation
72 (Paraphrase 2) O God of Bethel
113 Blest are the pure in heart
115 Come down, O Love Divine
120 Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
139 (Psalm 121) I to the hills will lift mine eyes
347 Praise ye the Lord

354 Glory be to God the Father
359 Praise the Lord, his glories show
360 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
362 From all that dwell below the skies
366 Sing to the Lord a joyful song
368 Now thank we all our God
387 (Psalm 23) The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
388 The King of love my Shepherd is
389 (Psalm 23, Gelineau) The Lord is my Shepherd
397 O God, thou art the Father
415 The Great Love of God is revealed in the Son
421 Glorious things of thee are spoken
437 Love divine, all loves excelling
438 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost
457 Fill thou our life, O Lord our God
598 (Psalm 67) God be merciful unto us and bless us
599 O Father, by whose sovereign sway
600 O Father, all creating
601 O God, whose loving hand has led
602 O God of love, to thee we bow
634 May the grace of Christ our Saviour
637 Come, dearest Lord, descend and dwell

First Order for a Funeral Service

The coffin shall be brought into the church or chapel at some convenient time, prior to the service.

At the time of the funeral service, the minister shall go to the desk or the holy table and shall say:

Let us worship God.

The service may begin with a Psalm or Hymn.

Then the minister shall say one or more of the following Sentences, the people remaining standing.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you.

I will never fail you nor forsake you.

I am the resurrection and the life: he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day.

We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them…
They are at peace.

Then the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, thou remainest the same for ever, perfect in justice, holiness, power and love. We worship thee O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Most merciful God, we do not forget that in thy sight we are sinners who have never perfectly loved thee nor earnestly sought to do thy will. We confess that we have sinned against thee and against our neighbour in what we have done and in what we have left undone and that in all things we have come short of thy glory. . . . We pray thee to forgive us all our sins, remembered and forgotten.

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ pardon all your sins, grant you time for repentance and amendment of life, and strengthen you with the Holy Spirit.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, who lovest us with an everlasting love, and canst turn the shadow of

death into the morning; help us now to wait upon thee with reverent and submissive hearts. In the silence of this hour speak to us of eternal things, that through patience and comfort of the scriptures we may have hope, and be lifted above our darkness and distress into the light and peace of thy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or, when a short prayer is required, the following:

Almighty God, who art our refuge and strength, and a very present help in time of trouble; enable us, we pray thee, to put our trust in thee; and seeing that we have a high priest who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, may we come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Then a lesson from the Old Testament may be read (see pp. 107-8).

Thereafter may be sung a suitable Hymn or Psalm.

Then lessons from the New Testament shall be read (see pp. 108-113).

Here a short Address may be given.

The congregation may join in saying the Apostles' Creed.

The minister shall then say:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose faithfulness is from one generation to another, we bless thee now and ever for all thy steadfast love: for thy divine providence ordering the affairs of men and nations; for the wondrous majesty of thy creation; for all the privileges and opportunities of this earthly life; for human trust, sympathy and love. More especially, we thank thee for the redemption of mankind in Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord: for his holy incarnation; his precious sufferings and death; his glorious resurrection and ascension. By his death he hath destroyed death, by his rising again from the dead he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Glory be to thee, O God Most High.

Ever blessed God, who art thyself glorified in thy saints, we praise thee for all who on earth fought a good fight, finished their course and kept the faith, and are now at rest in thee. We remember with gratitude our loved ones whom thou hast called hence . . . especially thy servant N……. We thank thee for all thy loving kindness towards *him* which upheld *him* in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow. We praise thee for all that *he* was by nature and by grace. We bless thee for the good which thou didst enable *him* to do and for the memories *he* has left behind . . .

Now trusting in thine infinite mercy, we commend *him* to thee.

Rest eternal grant unto *him,* O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon *him.*

O heavenly Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ wept at the grave of Lazarus his friend, look, we pray thee, in compassion upon those who are now in sorrow and affliction; comfort them, O Lord, with thy gracious consolation: make them to know that all things work together for good to them that love thee and grant them evermore sure trust and confidence in thy fatherly care; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most merciful Father grant to us who are still on our earthly pilgrimage, that having served thee on earth, we may by grace be united with thy blessed saints in glory everlasting: through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

After a brief silence the minister shall lead the people in the Lord's Prayer saying:

Our Father…

[*If the committal is to take place elsewhere the service ends as follows:*

A Hymn may be sung.

The minister shall bless the people from God, saying:

The God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

The minister shall precede the coffin as it is carried out of church.]

The Committal

(The minister shall walk before the coffin as it is carried to the place of committal.)
He shall then read one or more of the following sentences:

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower, and withers; he flees like a shadow, and continues not.

I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.

We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For thou hast delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one: I died, and behold I am alive for evermore.

(At the funeral of a child)
Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.

Then the minister shall say: (At the grave)

We have entrusted our *brother* N……. into the hands of God, and we now commit *his* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried, and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

In the crematorium

We have entrusted our *brother* N…… into the hands of God, and we now commit *his* body to be cremated, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried, and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

At sea

We have entrusted our *brother* N… into the hands of God, and we now commit *his* body to the deep; having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried, and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

At the funeral of a child

We have entrusted this child (little one) into the hands of God, and we commit *his* body . . . *(continue with appropriate form, as above).*

The following may be added to the words of committal:

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them.

Or

Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Or (for children)

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

The minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who by the death of thy dear Son Jesus Christ hast destroyed death, and by his glorious resurrection hast brought life and immortality to light; receive, we pray thee, our thanks for that victory over death and the grave, which he has obtained for us and for all who sleep in him. Keep us in everlasting fellowship with all that wait for thee on earth, and with all that are around thee in heaven, in union with

him who is the resurrection and the life, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

Or

O Saviour of the world who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour to fall from thee.

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints; where sorrow and pain are no more; neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Amen.

(When the service is held in the chapel of a crematorium a Hymn may here be sung.)

The minister shall bless the people from God, saying:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Amen.

Second Order for a Funeral Service

When all are assembled, the minister may use an introduction such as:

My friends,
we are here at what must be for us a time of sadness, because we mourn the death of someone we knew and loved. It is inevitable that we should feel this sadness, and it is natural and right that we should wish to express it; but we are gathered now for one main purpose: to remember the love and the promises of God.

Then he shall say one or more of the following Scripture Sentences or other suitable Sentence:

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and I am the life. If a man has faith in me, even though he die, he shall come to life."

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life.

No one of us lives, and equally no one of us dies, for himself alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Whether therefore we live or die, we belong to the Lord. This is why Christ died and came to life again, to establish his lordship over dead and living.

Now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror; but then we shall see face to face. Our knowledge now is partial; then it will be whole, like God's knowledge of us.

There is nothing in death or life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who in his mercy gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! The inheritance to which we are born is one that nothing can destroy or spoil or wither.

Then may be said one of the following prayers:

Father, your love is stronger than death; Day by day you bring us towards fullness of life. Help us, as we hear your promises, to believe them and to receive the comfort they offer. You are the giver of hope: fill us with joy and peace in believing, so that we may have abundant hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Glory to you, our God, for ever.
Amen.

Or this

God our Father, you are a refuge and strength for us, a helper close at hand in time of distress. We ask you to help us now so to hear the words of our faith that our fears are dispelled, our loneliness is eased, and our hope reawakened. May the Holy Spirit

lift us above our natural sorrow to the peace and the light of your constant love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Psalm or Hymn may be sung.

Then a lesson from the Old Testament may be read (see pp. 107-8).

A Psalm or Hymn may be sung.

Then lessons from the New Testament shall be read (see pp. 108-113).

Here a short Address may be given.

The congregation may join in saying the Apostles' Creed.

The following prayer may then be said:

Lord God, we join with your whole Church, of the past and of the present, to offer to you our thanks and praise for all that you have done for mankind through Jesus Christ. By giving him to live and die for us, you have disclosed your gracious purpose for the world and shown that there is no limit to your love. By raising him from the dead, you have promised that those who put their trust in him will share his resurrection-life. We thank you for the assurance and hope of our faith, and for all those whom you have received into your eternal joy.

Especially today we lift up our hearts in gratitude for the life of N..., our friend, now gone from among us; for all your goodness to *him* during *his* life; for all that *he* was to those who loved *him*; and for everything in *his* life that reflected your goodness and love. And now we bless you that, for *him* all previous weakness is past and forgotten; and that death itself lies behind *him*, no longer to be feared. Help us to be content to release *him* to you, *his* Father and our Father. Assure us that in your keeping *he* will be safe, your work in *him* complete.

Surround us and all who mourn today with your continuing and unending compassion. Do not let grief overwhelm your children or be without end, or turn them against you. Rather may we all travel on more serenely after today, reminded of the reality of your promises. Then Lord in your good time, re-unite us with those whom we have loved, in the one kingdom of your love, where there shall be no more tears, and no more partings, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose words we pray together, and say,

Our Father...

A Psalm or Hymn may be sung.

[If the committal is to take place elsewhere, there now follows a Benediction or an Ascription of Glory.]

The Committal

At the place of committal, all stand, and the minister says:

The Lord says: "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, and I am the living one: for I was dead and now I am alive for evermore."

At the grave

We have entrusted our *brother* N..... into the hands of God, and we now commit *his* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried, and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

In the crematorium

We have entrusted our *brother* N..... into the hands of God, and we now commit *his* body to be cremated, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried, and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

At sea

We have entrusted our *brother* N..... into the hands of God, and we now commit *his* body to the deep; having our whole trust and confidence in the mercy of our heavenly Father, and in the victory of his

Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who died, was buried, and rose again for us, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

At the funeral of a child

Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

We have entrusted this child (little one) into the hands of God, and we commit *his* body . . . *(continue with appropriate form, as above).*

The following may be added to the words of committal:

They shall never again feel hunger or thirst, because the Lamb who is at the heart of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to the springs of the water of life; and God will wipe all tears from their eyes.

In truth, in very truth I tell you, a time is coming, indeed it is already here, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and all who hear shall come to life. For as the Father has life-giving power in himself, so does the Son, by the Father's gift.

Then may be said this prayer:

Lord God, you were happy to give us the light of our eyes and to let us be born. You did not make us for darkness and death but so that we should, with all our hearts, live, and come closer to you. Be merciful to us, then, and take us by the hand and lead us to life today and for ever.

Or

O Lord, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, you were with us at our birth: be with us through our life. You are with us through our life: be with us at our death. And because your mercy will not fail us then, grant that we die not, but rise to the life everlasting in your presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

The service ends with the Benediction:

The peace of God, which is beyond our utmost understanding, keep guard over your hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Amen.

Psalms and Lessons for Funeral Services

PSALMS

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Psalm 23, A.V.)

or

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He will make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside still waters.
He will refresh my soul: and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil and my cup will be full.

Surely your goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Psalm 23, *A New Translation for Worship*)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him.

For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

(Psalm 103:8-18, R.S.V.)

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From whence does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for ever-more.

(Psalm 121, R.S.V.)

Out of the depths have I called to you O Lord:

Lord hear my voice; O let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you Lord should note what we do wrong, who then O Lord could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you: so that you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him: and in his word is my hope.

My soul looks for the Lord: more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel trust in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is ample redemption.

He will redeem Israel: from the multitude of his sins.

(Psalm 130, *A New Translation for Worship*)

The following Psalms are also suitable:

Psalm 39:4-7.
Psalm 90:1-60, 10, 12.
Psalm 16:8-11.
Psalm 62:5-8.

OLD TESTAMENT

He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Thou dost keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee.

Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

(Isaiah 25:8,9; 26:3,4, R.S.V.)

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God; and no torment shall touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died; and their departure was accounted to be their hurt, and their journeying away from us to be their ruin; but they are in peace . . . . and their hope is full of

immortality; and having borne a little chastening, they shall receive great good; because God made trial of them, and found them worthy of himself.

They that trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love.

(Wisdom of Solomon, R.S.V.)

The following is also suitable:

Isaiah 40:28-31.

EPISTLES

For I reckon that the sufferings we now endure bear no comparison with the splendour, as yet unrevealed, which is in store for us. For the created universe waits with eager expectation for God's sons to be revealed.

Up to the present, we know, the whole created universe groans in all its parts as if in the pangs of childbirth. Not only so, but even we, to whom the Spirit is given as first fruits of the harvest to come, are groaning inwardly while we wait for God to make us his sons and set our whole body free. For we have been saved, though only in hope.

If God is on our side, who is against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all; and with this gift how can he fail to lavish upon us all he has to give? Who will be the accuser of God's chosen ones? It is God who pronounces acquittal, then who can condemn? It is Christ – Christ who died, and, more than that, was raised from the dead – who is at God's right hand, and indeed pleads our cause. Then what

can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or hardship? Can persecution, hunger, nakedness, peril, or the sword?

In spite of all, overwhelming victory is ours through him who loved us. For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths – nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:18, 19, 22, 23, 24a, 31b-35, 37, 38, 39, N.E.B.)

No one of us lives, and equally no one of us dies, for himself alone. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Whether therefore we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

(Romans 14:7-9, N.E.B.)

If it is for this life only that Christ has given us hope, we of all men are most to be pitied.

But the truth is, Christ was raised to life – the first fruits of the harvest of the dead. For since it was a man who brought death in to the world man also brought resurrection of the dead. As in Adam all men die, so in Christ all will be brought to life; but each in his own proper place: Christ the first fruits, and afterwards, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

But, you may ask, how are the dead raised? In what kind of body? How foolish! The seed you sow does not come to life until it has first died; and what you sow is not the body that shall be, but a naked grain, perhaps of wheat, or of some other kind; and God

clothes it with the body of his choice, each seed with its own particular body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown in the earth as a perishable thing is raised imperishable. Sown in humiliation, it is raised in glory; sown in weakness, it is raised in power; sown as an animal body, it is raised as a spiritual body.

What I mean, my brothers, is this: flesh and blood can never possess the kingdom of God, and the perishable cannot possess immortality.

This perishable being must be clothed with the imperishable, and what is mortal must be clothed with immortality, then the saying of Scripture will come true: "Death is swallowed up; victory is won!" "O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?"

God be praised, he gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brothers, stand firm and immovable, and work for the Lord always, work without limit, since you know that in the Lord your labour cannot be lost.

(1 Corinthians 15:19-23, 35-38, 42-44, 50, 53-55, 57-58, N.E.B.)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the all-merciful Father, the God whose consolation never fails us! He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we in turn may be able to comfort others in any trouble of theirs and to share with them the consolation we ourselves receive from God.

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4, N.E.B.)

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died, and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14, 18, R.S.V.)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him;

And they shall see his face, and his name shall be in their foreheads.

And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

(Revelation 21:1-4; 22:3b-5, A.V.)

The following are also suitable:

Philippians 3:10-12, 21
1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, 23, 24
1 Peter 1:3-9
Revelation 7:9-17

GOSPELS

Jesus said, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

(John 14:1-4, 6, 27, A.V.)

or

"Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me.

There are many dwelling-places in my Father's house; if it were not so I should have told you; for I am going there on purpose to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and receive you to myself, so that where I am you may be also; and my way there is known to you." Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are

going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus replied, "I am the way; I am the truth and I am life; no one comes to the Father except by me.

Peace is my parting gift to you. My own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears."

(John 14:1-6, 27, N.E.B.)

One of the Twelve, Thomas, that is 'the Twin', was not with the rest when Jesus came. So the disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." He said, "Unless I see the marks of the nails on his hands, unless I put my finger into the place where the nails were, and my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

A week later his disciples were again in the room, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here; see my hands. Reach your hand here and put it into my side. Be unbelieving no longer, but believe." Thomas said, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Because you have seen me you have found faith. Happy are they who never saw me and yet have found faith."

(John 20:24-29, N.E.B.)

The following are also suitable:

Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14.
Mark 10:13-16
Mark 16:1-8.
Luke 7:11-16.
John 6:35, 37-40.
John 11:17-27.

Alternative Prayers for Funeral Services

Eternal God, we come to you now with all the thoughts and feelings awakened in us by the death of someone we knew and loved. Whatever we may be thinking, and whatever we may be feeling, we know that you will understand, for you made us, and you have shared, in Jesus, our life, and our experience.

Accept us, we pray. Forgive us for our lack of faith, and inspire us to a renewed hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Hope in Christ

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who didst send thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light, we humbly thank thee that by his death he destroyed the power of death, and by his glorious resurrection opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Grant us to know that because he lives, we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from thy love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

or

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless thee for thy Son, our Saviour, the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We praise thee that by his dying he destroyed death, and by his rising again has given us hope and promise of life eternal. Thanks be to thee, O God.

Amen.

Prayer of Commemoration

Praise be to thee O God for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and love, especially our *brother* N……. For all thy loving kindness towards *him* throughout *his* earthly life we give thee thanks. We thank thee that for *him* all sickness and sorrow are ended, that death itself is past, and that *he* has entered into the rest that remaineth for thy people.

Intercession for Those who Mourn

Almighty God, Lord of life and vanquisher of death, we praise you for the sure hope of eternal life you have given us in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; and we pray that all who mourn the loss of those dear to them may enter into his victory and know his peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

or

God of hope and giver of all comfort, we commend to your tender care those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Give them the peace that passes all understanding, and make them to know that neither death nor life can separate them from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

or

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort, deal graciously we pray thee with those who mourn, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

At the Funeral of a Child

O God our heavenly Father who art leading us through the changes of time to the blessedness of eternity, we pray thee to comfort and uphold us by faith in thy dear Son, who died, and rose again, and is alive for evermore, and who gathers the little ones in his arms. Thankful for this child, whom thou hast given and now taken to thyself, we humbly trust in thee, believing that *he* is safe in the everlasting arms of thy love.

O Lord our God comfort thy sorrowing servants. In thy mercy uphold them in faith and love that they may be drawn closer to each other and to thee. Grant them a vision of that life wherein all mysteries shall be revealed, and all tears wiped away, that they may be able to endure. So dwell with them and be their God, until the day break and the shadows flee away.

Almighty God, whose kingdom we shall not enter unless we turn and become like children, we thank thee for the gift of this child, for *his* baptism into thy Church, for the joy *he* has given all who knew *him*, and for the precious memories of *him* that will abide, and for our assurance that for *him* all sickness and sorrow are ended, that death itself is past, and that *he* lives for ever in the joy and peace of thy presence.

or

Lord Jesus Christ, you took little children into your arms and laid your hands upon them in blessing; assure us that you have called this child to yourself, and that you will keep *him* safe now and always in your loving arms.

Post-Committal Prayers

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; grant us grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for them that love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

O merciful Lord Jesus Christ, we remember that upon the cross thou didst commit thyself into the hands of thy heavenly Father. So assist us, we pray thee, by the memory of thy death, that we may live daily unto thee who died and rose again, and at the hour of our departing may trustfully commend ourselves to the Father, to be received into thine everlasting kingdom, there to dwell with thee for ever.

Amen.

or

Risen, reigning Christ, in you, past, present and future are brought together in one great hope. Renew our faith in you, so that the past may not hinder us, the present overwhelm us, or the future frighten us. You have brought us this far; continue to lead us until our hope is fulfilled and we join all God's people in never-ending praise.

Amen.

Hymns for Funeral Services

(The hymns suggested are from *The Church Hymnary: Third Edition*)

No.

6 (Psalm 36, vv. 5-9) Thy mercy, Lord, is in the heavens

73 (Psalm 40, vv. 1-4) I waited for the Lord my God

80 Lord Jesus, think on me

102 (Psalm 90, vv. 1, 2, 14, 16, 17) Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place

116 Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

121 Thou art the Way: to thee alone

138 (Psalm 8, vv. 1, 3-5) How excellent in all the earth

223 O Love, how deep, how broad, how high!

265 The Lord is risen indeed

288 The eternal gates are lifted up

296 Rejoice, the Lord is King

351 (Psalm 103, vv. 1-50) O thou my soul, bless God the Lord

360 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

363 Ye holy angels bright

368 Now thank we all our God

371 O for a thousand tongues, to sing

387 (Psalm 23) The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want

388 The King of Love my Shepherd is

396 (Para. 63) Behold the amazing gift of love

433 God be in my head, and in my understanding

530 (Para. 61) Blest be the everlasting God

534 For all the saints who from their labours rest

535 O what their joy and their glory must be
538 For those we love within the veil
543 Let saints on earth in concert sing
603 Such pity as a father hath
604 Go, happy soul, thy days are ended
605 Jesus lives! thy terrors now
606 O Lord of life, where'er they be
607 God of the living, in whose eyes
608 There is a blessed home beyond this land of woe

Order for Ordination and Admission of Elders

The lections for the day may be drawn from the following:
Exodus 17:13-26; Romans 12:4-11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-14, 27-31; Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-23; Mark 10:42-45; Luke 12:35-40.

The ordination and admission will normally take place during morning service at an appropriate point after Sermon.

If all the newly-elected elders have been previously ordained those parts of the service marked must be suitably modified.

The minister shall say:
Beloved in Christ, the Kirk Session of this church and parish having resolved to add to the number of its elders, choice has been made of A, B, C, D, to act with them. After due notice given, no objection has been offered to their life and doctrine. We therefore proceed.

Then the minister shall read this Preamble:
In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, who, being ascended on high, hath given gifts unto men for the edifying of the body of Christ, we are met here to ordain A, B, C, D, to the office of the eldership (and to admit E, F, G, H, into that office in this congregation).

In this act of ordination (and admission), the

Church of Scotland, as part of the holy catholic or universal Church, worshipping one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – affirms anew its belief in the gospel of the sovereign grace and love of God, wherein through Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, incarnate, crucified, and risen, he freely offers to all men, upon repentance and faith, the forgiveness of sins, renewal by the Holy Spirit, and eternal life, and calls them to labour in the fellowship of faith for the advancement of the kingdom of God throughout the world.

The Church of Scotland acknowledges the word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, to be the supreme rule of faith and life.

The Church of Scotland holds as its subordinate standard the Westminster Confession of Faith, recognising liberty of opinion on such points of doctrine as do not enter into the substance of the faith, and claiming the right, in dependence on the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, to formulate, interpret, or modify its subordinate standards: always in agreement with the word of God and the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith contained in the said Confession – of which agreement the Church itself shall be sole judge.

Then the minister, addressing the elders-elect, who shall stand before him, shall say:

In view of this Declaration you are now required to answer this question:

Do you believe the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith; do you promise to seek the unity and peace of this Church; to uphold the doctrine, worship, government and discipline thereof; and to take your due part in the administration of its affairs?

Then shall each answer: I do.

After the question has been answered to the satisfaction of the Session the formula shall be signed by the elders-elect.

Then the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Blessed be thou, O God, for all thy goodness, and blessed be thy Son Jesus Christ, that as a bridegroom he loves the Church, his bride, endowing her with all the riches of the Spirit, so that her words can be the word of life and her bread the bread of heaven and her shepherding his own shepherd work.

O God, we commend to thee those whom we now ordain (and admit) to the office of the eldership. Endue them with thy Spirit that they may be well equipped for the service expected of them. Make them pure in heart, unselfish, and zealous always for the advancement of Christ's kingdom and the well-being of his Church. Keep them faithful to the end, and when the chief shepherd shall appear, let them receive, with all the redeemed, a crown of glory, that fadeth not away; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thereafter the minister shall say to the elders-elect, standing before him:

In the name of the Lord Jesus, the King and Head of the Church I know declare you to have been ordained to the office of the eldership, and I admit you to office in this congregation and parish. In token thereof we give you the right hand of fellowship.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Then the right hand of fellowship shall be given by the moderator and other members of Kirk Session.

The minister may then exhort the newly admitted elders to be devout, virtuous, faithful in all their duties and, unless the passage has already been read, he may conclude the exhortation in this manner:

You know that in the world the recognized rulers lord it over their subjects, and their great men make them feel the weight of authority. That is not the way with you; among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the willing slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give up his life as a ransom for many.

(Mark 10:42-45, N.E.B.)

The minister may then exhort the people to support the elders, to receive them in their homes and share with them the task of the Church and, unless the passage has already been read, he may conclude the exhortation in this manner:

Just as in a single human body there are many limbs and organs, all with different functions, so all of us, united with Christ, form one body, serving individually as limbs and organs to one another. The gifts we possess differ as they are allotted to us by God's

grace, and must be exercised accordingly: the gift of inspired utterance, for example, in proportion to a man's faith; or the gift of administration, in administration. A teacher should employ his gift in teaching, and one who has the gift of stirring speech should use it to stir his hearers. If you give to charity, give with all your heart; if you are a leader, exert yourself to lead; if you are helping others in distress, do it cheerfully. Love in all sincerity, loathing evil and clinging to the good. Let love for our brotherhood breed warmth of mutual affection. Give pride of place to one another in esteem. With unflagging energy, in ardour of spirit, serve the Lord.

(Romans 12:4-11, N.E.B.)

The service may then continue in the customary manner.

Before the meeting of the Kirk Session is concluded the newly admitted elders shall have their names added to the roll, and shall take their seats.

The Collects – First Set

These collects with slight modifications are those published in *The Daily Office* by the Joint Liturgical Group (1968).

SUNDAYS

9 before Christmas

Almighty God, who hast created the heavens and the earth, and hast made man in thine own image: grant us in all thy works to perceive thy hand, and ever to praise thee for thy wisdom and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C.S.I., Easter 9 (adapted)

8 before Christmas

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us thy sons and heirs of eternal life: grant that, having this hope, we may purity ourselves even as he is pure; that we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom: where with thee, O Father, he is alive and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

B.C.P., Epiphany 6 (adapted)

7 before Christmas

O God, who didst promise to faithful Abraham that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed: grant us a firm faith, that in us thy promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C.S.I., Pentecost 4 (adapted)

6 before Christmas

O God the Redeemer, who didst send thy servant Moses to lead thy people out of slavery and affliction: rescue us from enslavement to sin and bring us to the country which thou hast prepared for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C.S.I., Pentecost 22 (adapted)

5 before Christmas

Almighty God, who hast spoken to the prophets that they might make thy will and purpose known inspire the guardians of thy truth, that through the faithful witness of the few the children of earth may be made one with the saints in glory; by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord, who alone redeemed mankind, and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects, 1 before Advent

Advent 1 (4 before Christmas)

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility: that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

B.C.P., Advent 1 (adapted)

Advent 2 (3 before Christmas)

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

B.C.P., Advent 2

Advent 3 (2 before Christmas)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

B.C.P., Advent 3

Advent 4 (1 before Christmas)

O God, who didst choose the blessed Virgin Mary to become the mother of our Saviour: grant that we, having in remembrance her exceeding faith and love, may in all things seek to do thy will, and evermore rejoice in thy salvation; through Jesus Christ thy Son, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Colquhoun, Parish Prayers, 556 (adapted)

Christmas Day

1. O God, who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of thy one true Light: grant

that we who have known the revelation of his light on earth may attain the fullness of his joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Daily Office 1968

2. Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

B.C.P., Christmas Day (adapted)

Christmas 1

O God, who by the shining of a star didst lead the wise men to the worship of thy Son: guide by thy light the nations of the earth that the world may be filled with thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C.S.I., Christmas 2 (adapted)

Christmas 2

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world to do thy will: Grant that we may ever have the pattern of his holy life before our eyes and find it our delight to do thy will and finish thy work: through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Colquhoun, Parish Prayers, 321 (adapted)

Christmas 3

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst humble thyself to take the baptism of sinful men, and wast there declared to be the Son of God: grant that we who

have been baptized in thee may rejoice to be the sons of God, and servants of all; for thy name's sake, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit art one God for ever and ever.

C.S.I., Christmas 4 (adapted)

Christmas 4

Remember, O Lord, what thou hast wrought in us and not what we deserve; and as thou hast called us to thy service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1928 Prayer Book, Occasional Prayers

Christmas 5

Almighty God, who in Christ makest all things new: transform the poverty of our nature into the riches of thy grace, that by the renewal of our lives thy glory may be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C.S.I., Christmas 6 (adapted)

Christmas 6

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 21

9 before Easter

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Epiphany 1

8 before Easter

Almighty and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that thou wouldest have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 20 (adapted)

7 before Easter

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Epiphany 3

Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Ash Wednesday

Lent 1 (6 before Easter)

Lord Jesus Christ, who wast in all points tempted as we are: strengthen us, we pray thee, in our manifold temptations; and as thou knowest our weaknesses, so may we know thee mighty to save; who with the

Father and the Holy Spirit art one God for ever and ever.

Colquhoun, Parish Prayers, 1301 (adapted)

Lent 2 (5 before Easter)

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 18

Lent 3 (4 before Easter)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

American Prayer Book, Monday before Easter

Lent 4 (3 before Easter)

O God, who before the passion of thine only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: grant unto us thy servants, that in faith beholding the light of his countenance, we may be strengthened to bear the cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

1928 Prayer Book, The Transfiguration

Passion Sunday (2 before Easter)

O God, who by the cross and passion of thy Son Jesus Christ didst save and deliver mankind: grant that by steadfast faith in his sacrifice we may triumph in the power of his victory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scottish Prayer Book, Passiontide Collects (adapted)

Palm Sunday (1 before Easter)

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility: mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Palm Sunday

Good Friday

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now is alive and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

B.C.P., Good Friday (adapted)

Easter Day

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the

power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily unto sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

1928 Prayer Book, Easter Day additional collect

Easter 1

Almighty God, who hast given unto us the true bread that comes down from heaven, even thy Son Jesus Christ: grant that we may be fed by him who gives life to the world, that we may abide in him and he in us; who is alive and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Macnutt, The Prayer Manual, 398 (adapted)

Easter 2

Be thou thyself, O Lord, we pray thee, the Shepherd of thy people: that we who are protected by thy care may be strengthened by thy risen presence; for thy Name's sake.

Colquhoun, Parish Prayers, 324 (adapted)

Easter 3

Merciful God, who hast made thy Son Jesus Christ to be the resurrection and life of all the faithful: raise us, we pray thee, from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above; where he is alive and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Anglican Series 2 draft Burial Service (adapted)

Easter 4

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life; that, following the steps of thy holy apostles, we may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., St. Philip and St. James (adapted)

Easter 5

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire, or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy; forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 12

Ascension Day

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell, who is alive and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

B.C.P., Ascension (adapted)

Easter 6

Almighty God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all

things: grant that thy Church on earth may be filled with his presence and that he may remain with us always, even unto the end of the world, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scottish Prayer Book, Postcommunion

Pentecost

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive, and reigns with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end.

B.C.P., Whitsunday (adapted)

Pentecost 1 (Trinity Sunday)

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast revealed thyself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and dost ever live and reign in the perfect unity of love: grant that we may always hold firmly and joyfully to this faith, and, living in praise of thy divine majesty, may finally be one in thee; who art three persons in one God, world without end.

C.S.I., Pentecost 1

Pentecost 2

Almighty and everlasting God, whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy Holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and

ministry, may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

B.C.P., Good Friday 2

Pentecost 3

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Easter Even

Pentecost 4

Almighty God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Easter 2

Pentecost 5

Almighty God, who showest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

B.C.P., Easter 3

Pentecost 6

O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee: mercifully grant, that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 19

Pentecost 7

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: send thy Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee: grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake.

B.C.P., Quinquagesima (adapted)

Pentecost 8

Almighty God, who didst send thy Spirit to abide in thy Church unto the end: mercifully grant that we may receive the gifts of his grace and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scottish Prayer Book, Whitsun Postcommunion Collect (adapted)

Pentecost 9

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Lent 2

Pentecost 10

O Lord, from whom all good things do come: grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Easter 5 (adapted)

Pentecost 11

O Lord, who hast taught us that whatever is done to the least of thy brethren is done to thee: make us ever willing to minister to the needs of others; to thy praise and glory, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit art God over all, blessed for ever.

St. Augustine (adapted)

Pentecost 12

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst give to thine apostles grace truly to believe and to preach thy word: grant, we pray thee, to thy Church to love that word which they believed, and both to preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., St. Bartholomew (adapted)

Pentecost 13

Lord God, whose blessed Son, our Saviour, gave his back to the smiters and hid not his face from shame: grant us to accept the sufferings of the present time, in full assurance of the glory that shall be revealed; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

American Prayer Book, Tuesday before Easter (adapted)

Pentecost 14

O God, who hast taught us to keep all thy commandments by loving thee and our neighbour: grant us the spirit of grace and peace, that we may be devoted to thee with our whole heart and united to each other with a pure will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Book of Public Worship (adapted)

Pentecost 15

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 15

Pentecost 16

Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 5

Pentecost 17

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 7

Pentecost 18

O God, who hast willed to restore all things in thy beloved Son, the king of all: grant that the families of the nations, divided and rent asunder by the wounds of sin, may be subject to his most gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

The Daily Office 1968, Pentecost 18

Pentecost 19

Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Easter 4

Pentecost 20

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 6

Pentecost 21

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things

temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: grant this, heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 4 (adapted)

EXTRA SUNDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS

1. Grant to us, Lord, we pray thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 9 (adapted)

2. O God, the strength of them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 1

EXTRA SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

1. Lord, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 22

2. Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 25, next before Advent

The Collects – Second Set

9 before Christmas

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made man in your own image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme
over all things now and for ever.

J.L.G.

8 before Christmas

Almighty God,
You have given your Son Jesus Christ
to break the power of evil.
Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us
and bring us to eternal light and joy;
through the power of him
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

J.L.G.

7 before Christmas

Almighty God,
your chosen servant Abraham
faithfully obeyed your call
and rejoiced in your promise
that, in him, all the families of the earth
should be blessed.
Give us a faith like his,
that, in us, your promises may be fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

J.L.G.

6 before Christmas

Lord God our redeemer,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of
slavery:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C.S.I., Pentecost 22 (adapted)

5 before Christmas

1 Almighty God,
who spoke to the prophets
that they might make your will and purpose
known:
inspire the guardians of your truth,
that the many may be blessed through the few
and the children of earth be made one
with the saints in glory;
by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who alone redeemed mankind
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects

2 Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that richly bearing the fruit of good works,
they may by you be richly rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 25 (adapted)

Advent 1 (4 before Christmas)

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility:
so that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

B.C.P., Advent 1 (adapted)

Advent 2 (3 before Christmas)

Eternal God,
who caused all holy scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us to hear them,
to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy
word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

B.C.P., Advent 2 (adapted)

Advent 3 (2 before Christmas)

Almighty God,
who sent your servant John the Baptist
to prepare your people for the coming of your Son:
inspire the ministers and stewards of your truth

to turn our disobedient hearts to the law of love;
that when he comes again in glory,
we may stand with confidence before him as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

J.L.G.

Advent 4 (1 before Christmas)

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:
fill us with your grace,
that in all things we may accept your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

J.L.G.

Christmas Day

1 Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us who have known the revelation
of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

J.L.G.

2 All praise to you,
Almighty God and heavenly king,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in him,
so he may continually dwell in us
and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven
with you and the Holy Spirit
now and for ever. *J.L.G.*

3 Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *J.L.G.*

Christmas 1

Eternal God,
who by the shining of a star
lead the wise men to the worship of your Son:
guide by your light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may behold your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C.S.I., Christmas 2 (adapted)

Christmas 2

Almighty Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ
was presented in the Temple
and acclaimed the light of the nations:
grant that in him we may be presented before you
and through him may bring light to the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Christmas 3

Almighty God,
who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy
Spirit
and declared him to be your Son:

send your Holy Spirit upon us
who have been baptized in his name,
that we may surrender our lives to your service
and rejoice to be called the sons of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Christmas 4

Almighty God,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and called to your service:
strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Christmas 5

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C.S.I., Christmas 6 (adapted)

Christmas 6

Merciful Lord,
grant to your faithful people
pardon and peace:
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
B.C.P., Trinity 21 (adapted)

Christmas 7

Give us, Lord, we pray,
the spirit to think and to do always
those things that are right:
that we who can do no good thing without you
may have power to live
according to your holy will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 9 (adapted)

Christmas 8

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
that he might destroy the works of the devil
and make us the sons of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious
kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

B.C.P., Epiphany 6 (adapted)

9 before Easter

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is for all mankind
the way, the truth, and the life:
teach us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *J.L.G.*

8 before Easter

Almighty and everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick
and restored them to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both men and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *J.L.G.*

7 before Easter

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of the Kingdom
and the word of his mouth:
renew your people with your heavenly grace;
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our
wretchedness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect forgiveness and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P. (adapted)

Lent 1 (6 before Easter)

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days
in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are,
yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in submission to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Lent 2 (5 before Easter)

Lord God Almighty,
whose Son Jesus Christ prayed for his disciples
that in all the conflicts of the world
you would keep them from the evil one:
strengthen us to resist every assault and temptation,
and to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Lent 3 (4 before Easter)

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory
before he was crucified:
grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it to be the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
American Prayer Book,Monday before Easter (adapted)

Lent 4 (3 before Easter)

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us faith to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

1928 Prayer Book (adapted)

Passion Sunday (2 before Easter)

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved mankind:
grant that by faith in him
who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Palm Sunday (1 before Easter)

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards mankind
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all mankind should follow the example of his
great humility:
grant that we may both follow the example of his
passion
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *B.C.P. (adapted)*

Maundy Thursday

1 Almighty and heavenly Father,
we thank you that
in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial
of the passion of your Son Jesus Christ.
Grant us so to reverence
the sacred mysteries of his body and blood,
that our lives may bear abundantly
the fruits of his redemption;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

1928 Prayer Book, Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (adapted)

2 Almighty Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of our brethren
we do also for him:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

J.L.G.

Good Friday

1 Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of wicked men
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

B.C.P. (adapted)

2 Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful
people is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all members
of your holy Church;
that each in his vocation and ministry
may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

B.C.P. (adapted)

3 Almighty God,
who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ
reconciling men to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it
may be reconciled to you;
through him who died for us and rose again
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *J.L.G.*

Easter Eve

Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection,
through his merits, who died and was buried
and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1928 Prayer Book (adapted)

Easter Day

Lord of all life and power,
through the mighty resurrection of your Son
you have overcome the old order of sin and death
and have made all things new in him.
Grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. *J.L.G.*

Easter 1

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy made glad the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his
risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Easter 2

God of peace,
who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant:
make us perfect in every good work
to do your will,
and work in us that which is well-pleasing
in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
J.L.G. (adaptation of Heb. 13.20)

Easter 3

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life
of all who put their trust in him:
raise us, we pray, from the death of sin
to the life of righteousness;
that we may seek the things which are above,
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Anglican Series 2, Burial Service (adapted)

Easter 4

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful men:
give us grace,
to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that in all the changes and chances of this world,

our hearts may surely there be fixed
where lasting joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P. (adapted)

Easter 5

1 Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and give more than either we desire or deserve.
Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask
save through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 12 (adapted)

2 Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of his peace,
and bring the whole created order
to worship at his feet,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *J.L.G.*

Ascension Day

Almighty God,
as we believe your only-begotten Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ has ascended into the heavens,

so may we also in heart and mind thither ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

B.C.P. (adapted)

Easter 6

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ, when he returned to glory,
did not leave us comfortless
but sent the Holy Spirit to remain with us for ever:
grant that the same Spirit may bring us
at last to that heavenly home,
where Christ has gone before to prepare a place,
and where with you and the Holy Spirit
he is worshipped and glorified, now and for ever.

B.C.P., Sunday after Ascension (adapted)

Pentecost

1 Almighty God,
who at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things,
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

B.C.P. (adapted)

2 Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy
and boldness to preach the gospel:
send us out in the power of the same Spirit
to witness to your truth
and to draw all men to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *J.L.G.*

Pentecost 1 (Trinity Sunday)

1 Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal trinity,
and in the power of the divine majesty
to worship the unity.
Keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects

2 Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love.
Keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways

and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three persons in one God,
now and for ever.

C.S.I., Pentecost 1 (adapted)

Pentecost 2

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all members
of your Holy Church;
that each in his vocation and ministry
may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

B.C.P. (adapted)

Pentecost 3

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured mankind of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him.
Deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

J.L.G.

Pentecost 4

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father.

Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service
that all mankind may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the sons of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

J.L.G.

Pentecost 5

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error
the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness.
May we and all who have been admitted
to the fellowship of Christ's religion
reject those things which are contrary to our profession
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Easter 3 (adapted)

Pentecost 6

O God,
since without you
we are not able to please you:
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 19 (adapted)

Pentecost 7

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love
are nothing worth.
Send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,

the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted dead before
you.
Grant this for the sake of your only Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Quinquagesima (adapted)

Pentecost 8

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of his grace
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Scottish Prayer Book, Whitsun Postcommunion Collect (adapted)

Pentecost 9

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves
to help ourselves.
Keep us both outwardly in our bodies
and inwardly in our souls,
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts
which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Lent 2 (adapted)

Pentecost 10

Father of mankind,
who gave your only-begotten Son

to take upon himself the form of a servant
and to be obedient even to death on a cross:
give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus
that, sharing his humility,
we may come to be with him in his glory;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

J.L.G.

Pentecost 11

Almighty Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of our brethren
we do also for him:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
but is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

St. Augustine (adapted)

Pentecost 12

Almighty God,
who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ
reconciling men to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it
may be reconciled to you;
through him who died for us and rose again
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

J.L.G.

Pentecost 13

Lord God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters
and did not hide his face from shame:
give us grace to endure the sufferings
of this present time
with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

American Prayer Book, Tuesday before Easter (adapted)

Pentecost 14

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling if the law.
Grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

J.L.G.

Pentecost 15

Lord God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that you being our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we finally lose not the things eternal.
Grant this, heavenly Father,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 4 (adapted)

Pentecost 16

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his most gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

J.L.G.

Pentecost 17

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish in us all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 7 (adapted)

Pentecost 18

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our souls are restless
till they find their rest in you.
Teach us to offer ourselves to your service,
that here we may have your peace,
and in the world to come may see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

J.L.G.

Pentecost 19

Almighty and everliving God,
increase in us your gift of faith;
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before us,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Series 3, Collects

Pentecost 20

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass man's understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love towards you
that we, loving you above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 6 (adapted)

Pentecost 21

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

J.L.G.

EXTRA SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

1 Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that richly bearing the fruit of good works,
they may by you be richly rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., Trinity 25 (adapted)

2 Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
that he might destroy the works of the devil
and make us the sons of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and
glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

B.C.P., Epiphany 6 (adapted)

Collects for Special Days

Christian Unity

O God, the Creator and Father of all mankind, who by thy Holy Spirit hast made a diversity of peoples one in the confession of thy name: lead them, we beseech thee, by the same Spirit to display to the whole earth one mind in belief and one passion for righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C.S.I.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, holy and undivided Trinity, three persons in one God: inspire your whole Church, founded upon this faith, to witness under many forms to the perfect unity of your love, one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects, Unity 2

Springtime

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: we beseech thee to pour forth thy blessing upon this land, and to give us a fruitful season; that we, constantly receiving thy bounty, may evermore give thanks unto thee in thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

American Prayer Book, Collect for Rogation Days

Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth should bear its fruits in their seasons: direct the labours of those who work on the land, that they may employ the resources of nature to your glory for our own well-being, and the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects, Rogation (3)

Harvest Festival

O Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant us grace to use the same to thy glory, the relief of those in need, and our own comfort, through Jesus Christ, who is the living Bread which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world; to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. *C.S.I.*

Almighty and everlasting God, we offer you our hearty thanks for your fatherly goodness and care in giving us the fruits of the earth in their seasons. Give us grace to use them rightly, to your glory, for our own well-being, and for the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects

Michaelmas

O Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of angels and men in a wonderful order; mercifully grant that, as thy holy angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P., St. Michael

Eternal Lord God, you have appointed both angels and men to worship and serve you in your kingdom. As your holy angels stand before you in heaven, so may they help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects

Overseas

O God, our heavenly Father, who didst manifest thy love by sending thine only-begotten Son into the world that all might live through him: pour thy Spirit upon thy Church that it may fulfil his command to make disciples of all the nations; send forth, we beseech thee, labourers into thy harvest; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and all Israel shall be saved; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Scottish B.C.P.)

Lord, you have consecrated our world by sending your Son into the midst of it and by making all things new in him. Give us and all your people, we pray, the courage and power we need to share fully in his mission to the world and to further his kingdom in the lives of men.

New Every Morning, 1973 (very slightly altered)

All Saints

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which you have prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.P.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son. Give us grace to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which you have prepared for those who perfectly love you: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alternative Services, Series 3, Collects

Remembrance Day

Grant, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, that we, being mindful of all thy benefits and heedful of our high calling, may yield ourselves in new obedience to thy holy will, and live henceforth as those who are

not their own, but are bought with a price; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

B.C.O. – Remembrance Sunday Service

O God, by whose wisdom and power the wrath of man is turned to your praise: overrule the passions and designs of men, and grant, for the sake of those whose lives were lost in war, and for the sake of the generations to come, that the nations of the world may learn your ways and your kingdom of peace may prevail on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

New Every Morning, 1973 (a conflation of parts of two prayers)

St. Andrew's Day

Almighty God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy apostle, Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him without delay: grant unto us all that we, being called by thy holy word, may forthwith give ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *B.C.P.*

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew that he readily obeyed the calling of your Son and brought his brother with him: give us, who are called by your holy word, grace to follow without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alternative Services, Series 3 Collects, Rogation (3)

Proper Prefaces for the Christian Year

Advent

We praise thee for Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Saviour, by whom thou hast sent a new light to shine upon the world, that we who rejoice in that light may be found cleansed from our sins and without fear when he shall come again to judge the world in righteousness. Thee, mighty God, …

Christmas

Especially at this time, we praise thee, because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born for us of Mary, that through him we might have power to become the sons of God. Thee, mighty God, …

Epiphany

We praise thee for Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the likeness of men manifested forth thy glory, that he might bring all men out of darkness into his marvellous light. Thee, mighty God, …

Lent

We praise thee for Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin; by whose grace we are enabled to subdue the sinful desires of the flesh, and live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. Thee, mighty God, …

Passiontide

We praise thee for Jesus Christ our Lord, who the night before he suffered did institute this holy sacrament, to be a pledge of his love and a memorial of his passion, that we, being partakers of these holy mysteries, might receive the benefits of his redemption. Thee, mighty God, …

Easter

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is the very paschal Lamb which was offered for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising again hath brought us to everlasting life. Thee, mighty God, …

Ascension

We praise thee for Jesus Christ our Lord, who ascended up on high, the one mediator between God and man; who abideth for ever in that glory which he had with thee, and in that nature which he took of us, that he might bring us to the fellowship of his Godhead. Thee, mighty God, …

Pentecost

We praise thee for Jesus Christ our Lord, who, having ascended up on high and sitting at thy right hand, sent forth the promise of the Holy Spirit upon the whole Church, that the everlasting gospel should be preached among all men to bring them out of darkness into the clear light of thy truth. Thee, mighty God, …

Trinity

Who, with thine only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit, art one God in trinity of persons, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. Thee, mighty God, …

All Saints

We praise thee for Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the blessedness of thy saints hath given us a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling; that following their example and being strengthened by their fellowship, we may exult in thee for thy mercy, even as they rejoice with thee in glory. Thee, mighty God, …